

Oman hands back Yemeni weapons

DUBAI (R) — Oman on Saturday handed back to Yemen all military weapons and equipment which Yemeni exiles brought with them when a two-month civil war ended in July. An Omani Defence Ministry spokesman, quoted by the official ONA news agency in Muscat, said the weapons and equipment were loaded on Yemeni military planes and naval ships which left for Yemen early on Saturday. ONA did not specify the type of weapons and equipment, nor say when the Yemeni delegation arrived in Muscat. Planes, ships and military equipment were taken out of southern Yemen by Yemenis in the last days of the war which ended on July 7 with the capture of Aden by forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Aden was declared capital of a secessionist state proclaimed by former Yemen Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh on May 21. Mr. Beidh fled to Oman. More than 9,000 of Yemeni exiles, mostly soldiers and security servicemen who fought for the breakaway state, had returned back to Yemen before the Aug. 15 deadline of a general amnesty announced by Mr. Saleh.

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King reiterates his resolve to continue historic role in Jerusalem

HM instructs government to extend all possible help to Palestinians, adopt steps to assure public of execution of projects

PNA wants to take charge of all Islamic sites and Waqf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday reaffirmed his resolve to continue to fulfil the Hashemite family's historic role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and expressed hope to see Islamic efforts to guarantee the best conditions to safeguard the holy sites.

The reaffirmation came during a Cabinet meeting the King chaired, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"Religious sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem remains our main concern," the King told the Cabinet. "We hope to see collective efforts on the part of the Islamic Nation to guarantee the best conditions that can safeguard these holy shrines."

The King noted that the task of managing the affairs of the Waqf in holy shrines in Jerusalem is a historic and religious Jordanian responsibility and that the Arab summit held in Rabat in 1974 had endorsed this role. "We have performed our duties in full throughout the years," the King reaffirmed.

The King stressed that the question of Islamic Waqf was so important that it was dangerous for anyone to tamper with it.

"Therefore, Jordan will go ahead and play its role so as to guarantee that all rights would be preserved and protected because it is our duty and commitment to the mission with which we have been entrusted," the King said.

The King also said that the state of "non-wariness" in re-

lations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) should not have any impact on relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He instructed the government to provide all possible help and facilities to the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories to meet their needs.

The King reiterated Jordan's stand that the issue of confederal or federal or any other form of ties between Jordan and the Palestinians was not an issue that should be contemplated at this point

in time and circumstances. "Such an important decision should come from the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples themselves exercising their own free will and free and independent choice," the King said.

In Gaza City, the PNA announced after a meeting on Saturday that it had decided to place all mosques, religious schools and other Islamic institutions in Arab East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the auspices of its newly created Islamic trust ministry.

The Islamic trust minister, Hassan Tahboub, was quoted

as saying that the self-rule authority "authorised" him to take an inventory of all the sites.

"We demand that Jordan transfer to us the authorities they have now" over the Muslim institutions, Azmi Shuaibi, minister of youth, told reporters after the meeting.

"This will create problems with Jordan," he acknowledged.

Jordan's Islamic Trust, or Waqf, spends \$9 million a year for the upkeep and employees' salaries at about 50 religious sites in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Mr. Shuaibi said the Palestinians planned to pay the salaries of the Waqf employees in the future.

The dispute came after the PLO objected to a recognition of Jordan's historic role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration signed on July 25.

Jordan has repeatedly said that its role in the Holy City was strictly religious and that it firmly supported the Palestinians' quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem. The Kingdom joined other members of the Arab League last week to reaffirm this stand and support the Palestinians' claim to Jerusalem.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told reporters in Amman that the Jordanian government would adopt diplomatic and legal steps to ensure the Kingdom's religious role in running Jerusalem's holy shrines.

"This is a serious issue that bears dangerous consequences and we will not take it lightly," Dr. Anani said after Saturday's Cabinet meeting.

In his comments to the Council of Ministers, the King also called on the government to adopt measures to ensure public satisfaction and to prevent all forms of discrimination and favoritism in dealing with public affairs.

Such practices, the King said, run contrary to Jordanian ideals and values.

King Hussein said Jordan was facing a host of impor-

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His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday confers with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (Petra photo)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday chairs a Cabinet meeting at which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker attended (Petra photo)

Clinton, Carter in 'last' bid to end Haiti crisis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton dispatched former President Jimmy Carter and a high-level delegation to Haiti Saturday for one final urgent effort to orchestrate a peaceful departure of the ruling military junta.

"Their time is up," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address from the Oval Office. "The remaining question is not whether they will leave but how they will leave."

Mr. Carter left Warner Robbins air force base in Georgia Saturday morning with Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and retired General Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They arrived in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, shortly after noon.

Sources at the U.S. embassy in Haiti said Mr. Carter was to meet first with members of the Aristide government, and later in the afternoon with leaders at army headquarters. It was unclear which officials he would speak with.

"Their mission is to make one last best effort to provide a peaceful, orderly transfer of power, to minimise the loss of life and to maximise the chances of security for all Haitians and of course for our own troops," Mr. Clinton said.

"We still hope to end this journey peacefully," he added.

Mr. Clinton decided Friday to try one more diplomatic foray after Haitian army chief Raoul Cedras said the Caribbean nation's military leaders were willing to receive such a delegation.

White House officials cautioned that Mr. Cedras' willingness to meet did not necessarily mean he was ready to surrender power. They said the delegation was authorised to discuss only one thing, the manner in which the Haitian military leaders would depart.

The three will discuss only "the modalities of the departure," said William Swing, the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, during an appearance on CNN Friday night.

"At this stage, to be either optimistic or pessimistic would be wrong," said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "You simply pursue the option and see what happens."

Administration officials stressed that planning for an invasion was proceeding apace. Mr. Clinton visited the Pentagon Saturday for a briefing on classified military preparations.

Mr. Clinton, Defence Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, held a video-conference with Admiral Paul David Miller, commander in chief of U.S. Atlantic command and overall commander for the Haiti operation.

Dennis Boxx, a Pentagon spokesman, said the aircraft carriers USS Eisenhower and USS America Saturday arrived at their stations "in the region" of Haiti. With that, all the pieces of the potential U.S. assault were in place, he said.

There was little sign of feverish activity in Port-Au-Prince in advance of the Carter mission, though there was a step-up in security as plainclothes police carrying automatic weapons patrolled the area.

Haitians scrambled to board pickups, trucks and buses for the countryside Saturday morning. Bus stops near Port-Au-Prince's waterfront were jammed with people carrying whatever possessions they had.

Wives and children of several prominent coup supporters, including capital police chief Joseph Michel Francois, have fled Haiti in recent days over the overland border to the Dominican Republic. One pro-army businessman wore a T-shirt saying "No to intervention" as he headed into the Domi-

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Israel detains two Syrians

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel detained two Syrians who crossed into the Jewish state from Syria apparently by mistake, Israeli security sources said on Saturday. They said two were being questioned by authorities but it seemed clear they had no hostile intent and had simply blundered across the border.

Deported Algerian deported again

DAKAR (R) — An Algerian deported from France as a suspected Islamic extremist was back in Africa on Saturday after he was refused entry by Switzerland, diplomatic sources said. Ahmed Rahim Bahni, one of the 19 Algerians expelled by France on Aug. 31 to Burkina Faso, arrived in Dakar, capital of Senegal, on Friday. Mr. Bahni was issued a Swiss visa in Burkina last Monday and frontier police at Geneva airport told him it was cancelled and put him on the next flight to West Africa, the sources said. He was due to return to square one on Sunday. He was booked on a flight from Dakar to Onagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso.

Tajik government, rivals agree truce

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Tajik government and Islamic opposition on Saturday reached a ceasefire agreement in the conflict in Tajikistan, U.N. special envoy Ramiro Piz-Ballón said here. The temporary ceasefire would come into force when United Nations military observers arrived in Tajikistan in eight to 10 days time, Mr. Piz-Ballón said on the fifth day of U.N.-sponsored talks in Tehran.

PNA says talks on elections this month

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli teams will open talks on the next stage of their peace deal — general elections in the West Bank and Gaza strip — on Sept. 28, a member of the PNA said on Saturday. The cabinet has named a delegation which will discuss elections with Israel on the 28th. Azmi Shuaibi, head of the authority's sports and youth department, told reporters after the authority's weekly meeting on Saturday. Israeli officials were not immediately available for comment.

Mr. Shuaibi said a venue for the negotiations had yet to be set but it could be Cairo. He named the elections negotiators as Saeb Erekat, head of local government in the authority, Nabil Oassib, head of technical committee, Ali Al Safarini, who works on the election committee, and Zahira Kamal, a former peace negotiator.

Under the broad peace deal signed in Washington in September last year, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed to hold general elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within seven months to choose a council that would run the Palestinian territories.

Earlier stages of the peace deal were implemented late and so the date for elections also slipped but Palestinians accused Israel of purposely stalling on starting the polling talks.

On Sept. 10, in frustration, the PNA, which runs self-rule, unilaterally approved plans to begin preparations for general elections within three months.

Israel says the PLO must

first agree on details for the elections before any step is taken towards bolder the poll.

In the first stage of their September 1993 interim peace deal, Israel and the PLO initiated self-rule in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on May 4.

In the second stage, the sides on Aug. 29 signed an agreement giving Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank control over education, health, taxation, tourism and social welfare. So far only education has actually been handed over.

After several fatal attacks on Israelis by anti-peace deal guerrillas, Israel had warned it could refuse to go forward with further stages of the peace deal if the PNA did not hunt attackers who took refuge in its area.

4-month budget passed

The self-rule authority agreed a stop-gap budget on Saturday and formally approved a Norwegian-brokered deal designed to free more donor cash to run those areas under its control, PLO officials said.

The \$135 million budget would pay for self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho for the next four months, the officials added. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat later left Gaza for Cairo and a meeting there on Sunday of the Palestinian development agency PECO-DAR.

He was also expected to update Egyptian officials on his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Oslo this week and to meet U.N. Secretary General

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Israel lifts overnight blockade of Jericho

JERICHO (Agencies) — The Israeli army on Saturday reopened roads leading to this autonomous Palestinian town, ending a 12-hour closure imposed after hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators burned tyres on the outskirts of Jericho.

The Friday night demonstration came in protest against the arrest of 12 members of the Jericho-based Palestinian security services by Israeli police. They were being held on suspicion of roughing up fellow Palestinians outside the autonomy areas.

Palestinian police in Jericho eventually cleared away the burning tyres and stone barricades blocking the town's main thoroughfare Friday.

The army lifted its closure Saturday morning after Palestinian police promised to prevent such protests in the future, Israeli radio said.

The army had said earlier it would lift the closure if Palestinian officials assured it in a meeting on Saturday that protests like those on Friday would not recur.

Israel has from time to time slapped closures on both Gaza Strip and Jericho self-rule enclaves, set up in May, after violence or when it deems Palestinian security forces should "organise" more efficiently.

Closures are easily effected. Israeli sentries at permanent roadblocks at the entrances to the self-rule enclaves bar any traffic. The measure is a stark flexing of Israeli muscle despite last September's interim peace deal.

On Friday, the Israeli army arrested two members of Jericho's Palestinian secret police, Israeli security sources said, touching off tempers

already high over prior arrests by Israel of Palestinian security forces members.

Prior to news of those arrests on Friday, Jericho preventive security head Jibril Al Rajoub accused Israeli secret police of torturing three of his men they held in custody.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal in turn denied the accusation, saying the three were being held and put under house arrest Tuesday must be freed totally within 10 days, the head of the group's leadership-in-exile said in an interview published Saturday.

FIS President Ahassi Madani and Vice-President Ali Belhadj should "remain under house arrest for no more than 15 days," Rahah Kebir told the Arabic language daily El Khahar.

The pair were released Tuesday from a military prison in the southern town of Blida, where they were serving sentences for endangering national security.

The move aimed to encourage their party to take part in talks to end insurrection spearheaded by the FIS which has left an estimated 10,000 people dead in two-and-a-half years.

"We demand that they be given total and complete freedom," Mr. Kebir said, adding, "we are capable of assuring their safety."

They must have complete freedom of movement so they could meet with "all leaders of the party," he added.

Mr. Kebir repeated the FIS position that it would not attend a new round of talks between the military-backed government and opposition parties, scheduled for Tues-

FIS demands full freedom for leaders; moderate Islamist killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Two leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) released from jail and put under house arrest Tuesday must be freed totally within 10 days, the head of the group's leadership-in-exile said in an interview published Saturday.

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Mr. Kebir repeated the FIS position that it would not attend a new round of talks between the military-backed government and opposition parties, scheduled for Tues-

day, saying "the FIS cannot make any decisions until it has called a conference (of its leaders)."

Mr. Kebir did not say where Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj were being held.

Meanwhile gunmen killed a leader of Algeria's moderate Islamic movement Hamas and seriously wounded another official in an ambush in the east Algerian town of Constantine, the party said.

Ali Ayebe, a member of the Hamas executive, was shot dead and Boujarra Soltani, one of the party's first leaders, was wounded in the Friday night attack, the party said.

Hamas is taking part in political talks, opposed by hardline fundamentalists, with the Algerian authorities to try to find a way out of nearly three years of violence in which more than 10,000 people have died.

A party source said the gunmen struck as the two men were near Soltani's home.

The killers' identities were not known. Armed Islamist groups trying to overthrow Algeria's army-backed authorities have threatened Hamas leaders several times with reprisals.

Hamas has urged the authorities to negotiate with its rival, the FIS.

But Hamas leader Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah has bitterly criticised armed groups,

some of who are believed to be hardline former members of FIS.

In a recent interview, the Hamas leader said: "All the world should know that among the armed group are people who are nothing but brigands. Several networks have been broken up and it is known that they were implicated in drug trafficking."

"They have extorted funds, beheaded people and set up their heads in public places, assassinated children and made blood run. We believe these groups are total strangers to Islam."

Ayeh, the party's local leader in Skikda region in east Algeria, was the second senior Hamas man to be killed.

Last December, Mohammed Bousslimani, a party founder, was kidnapped from his home. He was found, his throat slit, hurled at the foot of a mountain some 50 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

His killing was officially blamed on the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), viewed as the most radical armed faction opposed to talks between the opposition and the authorities.

Meanwhile a member of a party which opposes the peace talks, Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), died Friday after being shot the RCD said Saturday.

Kingdom urges world to support peace drive

COPENHAGEN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday urged the world community to support its peace drive as represented in the Washington Declaration signed between Jordan and Israel on July 25, 1994, and its quest to attain a permanent and just peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan's call was made by Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi at the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held in Copenhagen which is attended by parliamentarians from different countries.

The Washington Declaration has put an end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel, marked the beginning of an era of creating a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and removed the walls of hatred among peoples, said Mr. Lawzi.

Jordan, said Mr. Lawzi, calls for peace that can ensure regional and international cooperation and one in which the rich nations of the north help the poor nations of the south.

He said Jordan hopes that poor countries such as itself can participate in integrated plans for the development of their regions socially, economically and environmentally, and combat poverty and backwardness.

Referring to Jordan's contributions to the U.N.-peace-keeping efforts, Mr. Lawzi said that thousands of Jor-



Ahmad Lawzi

nian troops are currently serving under the U.N. flag in Angola, Mozambique, Cambodia, Croatia and other troubled regions of the world.

With reference to the past conflicts in the Middle East, Mr. Lawzi said Jordan was a recipient of forced migrations of displaced persons mainly from Palestine who flooded the Kingdom since 1948 and placing a substantial toll on the country's socio-economic situation.

He called on the Israeli government and people to seize the opportunity of peace-making with Jordan, the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World and embark on an era of regional cooperation with the Arab states to attain the aspired progress and prosperity.

'Ministry plans to expand sex education programme in implementation of population education curricula'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Education intends to expand its sex education programme to include information about birth control and birth spacing, according to the ministry Secretary General Munther Masri.

"Since abortion is illegal, we will try to introduce students to birth control methods and birth spacing strategies which would increase their awareness about the population issue," Dr. Masri told the Jordan Times Saturday following the opening of a seminar on population education. The secretary general added that the subject will be introduced in the textbooks of first graders through tooth graders.

Delivering a speech on behalf of the Minister of Education, Dr. Masri said the ministry's project aims at defining the objectives of population education in Jordan and proposing ways for providing such education to the schools.

He said the ministry wants to scrutinise the curriculum and school textbooks to study their relation to population education, childhood, migration, women and regional factors, which exist in the current curriculum.

The conference, held in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is designed to review the working papers presented by the

ministry's council on the possibility of altering or adding new material to the curriculum to raise students' awareness about population problems, according to Dr. Masri.

He told the Jordan Times that the council, appointed by the ministry, will work on adding new material to the curriculum which would not conflict with the society's traditions and beliefs.

Talal Zohbi, director of the Curriculum and School Textbooks Programme, who also addressed the participants, said population education has become a priority for many countries around the world, and most have adopted the population as part of their school curriculum in order to help students realise the population problem and their role in solving it.

After the current three-day seminar several workshops will be conducted to draft a final document that will include materials to be added in the school curriculum, said Dr. Zohbi.

The next phase, he added, will include training and informing teachers on the changes and additions to the curriculum.

Senior Programme Officer at the UNFPA, Dirwas Alkhas, said this conference is part of the 1992-96 UNFPA country programme in Jordan.

"It's actually an introduction of population education in the basic education in Jordan, and hopefully after the completion of phase one we



Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Masri (centre) Saturday chairs the opening of a seminar on population education (Petra photo)

should have a much longer project for the actual implementation of the project in the future," Dr. Alkhas told the Jordan Times.

"We feel that the Ministry of Education is very serious about introducing population education in the curriculum, as you know Jordan is char-

acterised with a high population rate resulting from high natural growth rate, migration and population," he added.

Dr. Alkhas said the UNFPA realises that Jordan has limited natural resources and is facing some serious short-

tages in water resources, and "it is high time for people and students, who comprise one-third of the country's population, to realise these facts and plan their future accordingly."

Saturday, participants presented three working papers

that discussed population and education, the current population situation in Jordan and the national population strategy plan.

Today and Monday participants will review other Arab countries' experiments in population education.

Darat al Funun presents Kamal Boullata

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new cultural season at Darat al Funun, an art gallery/institute in Jabal Weibdeh, will open today with an exhibition of recent works by Jerusalem-born artist Kamal Boullata, according to a gallery statement Saturday. This exhibition is Mr. Boullata's second only to be held in Jordan, since the artist took up residence in Washington 25 years ago, said the statement.

For this special occasion, said a gallery spokesperson, Darat al Funun and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation are sponsoring a cultural programme entitled: "Jerusalem and its Creative Memory." The programme will run throughout the first week following the Boullata exhibition's opening, the spokesperson said.

The major body of works included in Mr. Boullata's exhibition has recently been realised by the artist in Spain and Morocco. With a senior scholar Fulbright Fellowship granted over two consecutive years, Mr. Boullata conducted field research in Islamic geometric art in Morocco. As a direct product of his research in these, the artist created the present series of works exhibited at Darat al Funun, said the statement.

Entitled "Duets, Quartets and a Triangle," Mr. Boullata's exhibition contains a series of serigraphic prints in a limited edition and a collection of acrylic paintings on canvas.

Regardless of the medium used, Mr. Boullata's art is characterised by geometric forms executed with mathematical precision, said the statement.

His hard-edged forms are contrasted with what seems to be an endless gradation of translucent colour, according to the spokesperson. In addressing himself to questions of form and colour once per-

fected in Andalusia, the site of his recent research, Mr. Boullata's visual language continues to be rooted in the American school of geometric abstraction, said the spokesperson.

Cultural events organised in conjunction with Mr. Boullata's exhibition include the showing of the feature-length English language documentary "Stranger at Home" by Dutch filmmaker Rndolf van den Berg. The film will be shown at the Shomao Foundation's Al Muntada Hall, on Monday evening.

"Stranger at Home," publicly shown in Jordan for the first time, received wide acclaim abroad. After its premiere showing at the American Film Institute in Washington, Myrian Rosen described the film to Middle East Report as follows:

"Richly nuanced in form and thought, it is a kind of double documentary, at once a film about the exiled Palestinian painter Kamal Boullata and his visit to Jerusalem, and a film about the multilayered relationship between Boullata and Van den Berg, as friends, visual artists, Palestinian and Jew."

Variety film magazine wrote: "Excellent cinematography and good technical credits help to sustain the emotional impact of this story of a gifted, intelligent and successful exile, unable to feel at home either in Washington or in Jerusalem."

Following the film's showing at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, Le Monde's Louis Marcorelles concluded that, the film was "a passionate spectacle from beginning to end."

After the showing of the film, Mr. Boullata will meet with and respond to questions from the audience, said the gallery statement.

Carbon monoxide poisoning claims life of 30-year-old

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 30-year-old man was killed Friday, and another was listed in critical condition after inhaling carbon monoxide emitting from a water well pump. Two Civil Defence Department (CDD) rescue officers were also listed in fair condition after inhaling the poisonous gas after attempting to rescue the two men in Hikma town of Irbid, police and CDD reports said.

Mohammad A. Batayneh was pumping water out of the well of his home when he started shouting for help, Nizar M. Rifai, 30, a friend of Mr. Batayneh, told police.

Mr. Rifai said he rushed to save his friend but when he went down the well he was unable to breathe and fainted.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Saturday that Mr. Batayneh had placed a water pump inside the well, which was narrow. When the victim began operating the pump the carbon monoxide fumes cut down the oxygen in the well.

Two of the CDD team involved in the rescue attempt which saved the life of Mr. Rifai, were taken to Prince Rashid Hospital for toxic fume inhalation.

Toddler drowns in well
Also in Irbid, a two-year-old girl Friday drowned in a water well in Al Mazar, CDD reports said.

According to the report, Amani Khalaf was playing in the backyard of her house when she fell in the water well.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the family of the victim thought their daughter was playing in the backyard of their house. Half an hour later, the official said, the family noticed their daughter was missing and "when they went to check on her they found her in the well."

"When we pulled the child out of the well she was already dead. She had been in there for more than half an hour," the CDD official said.

The toddler was taken to Prince Rashid Hospital and was later transferred to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy.

Police investigate death of man

Police Saturday were investigating the mysterious death of a 29-year-old man in Tia'a Al Ali, reports showed.

According to the report, the victim's friend, identified as A.A.M. went to visit his friend, identified by police only as A.M.S. He told police that he knocked on the door and when he got no answer he looked through a window and saw his friend lying on the floor. The body was taken to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy by the CDD. Police would not release any further information and said they were investigating the incident.

'Jordan receives high rating for economic restructuring programme'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of an additional credit to Jordan to help it meet its needs to boost its foreign exchange reserves, emphasises the high rating the Kingdom has achieved in adhering to the economic restructuring programme, a senior finance ministry official said Saturday.

The official was commenting on a decision adopted on Wednesday by the IMF to approve a Jordanian request to augment the amount available to it under the extended fund facility (EFF) by 25 million special drawing rights (SDRs), about \$36 million.

With the addition, the EFF available to Jordan between May 1994 and May 1997 stands at 152.8 million SDRs, about \$217 million,

said the official, who preferred not to be identified.

The official, correcting a report that the assistance was coming from the World Bank, also noted that it was the first time that the IMF was offering an EFF credit to Jordan. Until now, IMF credits were available under standby agreements for 18 months depending on periodical reviews and Jordan's implementation of economic reforms.

The official explained that loans from the World Bank to Jordan had to be seen "distinctly separate" from the IMF credit facility.

"World Bank loans are mostly aimed at improving the efficiency and addressing problems in the various sectors such as energy, water, agriculture etc.," said the official.

"The IMF credit, which is available in tranches of 9.8 million SDRs every three months, will be used to support the government's medium-term economic and financial reform programme."

was highly satisfied with Jordan's performance and its success in meeting the predetermined targets.

In fact, the minister said, Jordan had exceeded the expectations and projections set in the IMF programme in terms of inflation and imports and exports.

The main measure that Jordan has undertaken in the updated programme is to have an effective "comprehensive reform package in taxation."

"The idea is to lower the rate of taxes and widen the base of taxation," explained the ministry official. "This aims at encouraging those who evade taxes to come forward and pay taxes at lower rates."

"Hiking the rate of taxes simply for the purpose of increasing revenues is counterproductive," said another government official. "Higher rates will only lead to increased tax evasion."

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh has said the IMF

U.N. extends school meal programme 3-year renewal to benefit adult learners

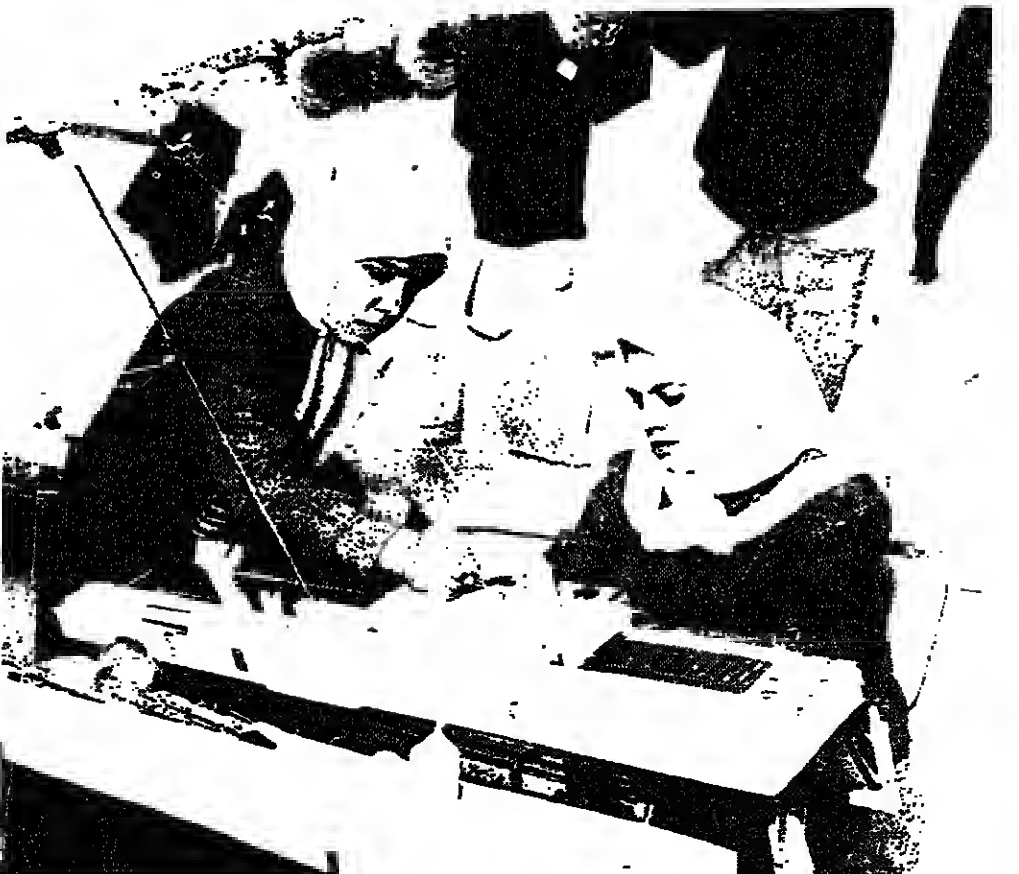
AMMAN (Petra) — More than 65,000 people in eight governorates and districts of Jordan will benefit from a joint Jordanian-United Nations school meal programme now being extended for three years, according to Nizar Sabuleish, head of the School Health and Food Department at the Ministry of Education Saturday.

In 1989 the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) signed a five-year agreement with the government to provide meals for school children; that programme has now been renewed to benefit four categories, said Mrs. Sabuleish.

These, she said, are: Pupils in the basic primary stage from class one to six; learners at adult education and literacy centres; women trainees in vocational centres run by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF); and children at nursery centres operated by QAF.

The agreement, which was approved by the Council of Ministers last week, benefits 60,000 school children in 540 schools, 3,200 learners at the adult education and literacy centres, 1,000 women learners at vocational centres run by QAF and 1,600 children in QAF-operated nurseries, said Mrs. Sabuleish.

She said that students qualifying for the meal programme should be from needy families with monthly earnings ranging between JD 75



A vocational training centre in Karak where women learn the trade of tricot clothes-making (File photo)

and JD 105.

The aim of the programme, she said, is to alleviate the suffering of the poor, prevent school drop-outs, encourage the illiterate to learn

and women in the rural regions to be trained in a trade that would help them to earn a living.

According to Mrs. Sabuleish, beneficiaries of

the programme come from the Ma'an, Karak, Tafleh, Mafrag, Aqaba, South Shuneh, Deir Allah and the northern Jordan Valley regions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali to address businessmen's group

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali today will address a meeting organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) at the Philadelphia Hotel and discuss the latest developments in economic and political fields at the regional and the international levels as well as progress in the Middle East peace process.

Al Hassan to attend U.N. meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan leaves today for New York to take part in the U.N. General Assembly's 49th meeting which is due to start on Sept. 20. Mr. Hassan will also meet several Arab and foreign ministers on the sidelines of the meetings.

RJ opens office at Foreign Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, Saturday said that it has opened an office at the Foreign Ministry. The office will facilitate the travel arrangements of state officials preparing for missions abroad. The office telephone numbers are 619-554 and 644-361 extension 346.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "The Spirit of St. Louis" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (135 minutes).

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition by artist Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Otia Beseio at The Gallery at the Hotel Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).

★ Two exhibitions of abstract art respectively by Marwan 'Allan and a group of Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Nasir Thamiir at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra St. (Tel. 644451).

★ "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.

★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).

U.S. fears Bosnian Serbs may retaliate against Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. plans to tighten the noose on Bosnian Serbs for their rejection of a big power peace plan have prompted fears they may retaliate against Sarajevo, diplomats said Saturday.

U.N. peacekeepers in the Bosnian capital blamed the Serb besiegers for turning off gas supplies this week and privately said they were also responsible for cutting its electricity and water.

The actions indicated the extent to which Sarajevo is at the mercy of military-superior Bosnian Serb forces surrounding it.

The big power contact group for Bosnia — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — asked the Security Council Friday to tighten sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs to try to force them to negotiate.

At the same time they urged the U.N. to ease almost 2-1/2 years of sanctions against Yugoslavia in return

for its imposition of a military blockade to punish the Bosnian Serbs for opposing the peace deal.

There was concern the Bosnian Serbs would respond to the new pressure on them by activating a threat from their leader, Radovan Karadzic, to deprive Sarajevo's 380,000 inhabitants of vital services.

Mr. Karadzic, president of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic, warned recently he would squeeze the city so tightly that even a bird would not get into it.

Serbs control the flow of gas and electricity to Sarajevo and all road access. Water cannot be pumped without electrical power.

U.N. sources said the interruption of power supplies this weekend was an ominous sign with the approach of the harsh Balkan winter.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) can stop relief flights to the airport at will despite a U.N. heavy weapons exclusion for a radius of 20

kilometres around.

The British Overseas Development Agency (ODA) halted aid flights Friday after its aircraft came under fire again.

There was no immediate Bosnian Serb reaction to the big power move against them because telephone lines to their "capital" at pale outside Sarajevo are cut under the Yugoslav blockade.

The Belgrade newspaper Borba quoted Bosnian Serb Vice-President Nikola Koljevic as saying before the announcement that the leadership would stand by its rejection of the plan until it was changed.

The big powers wanted to divide the former Yugoslav republic between the Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats. The plan would force Serbs to give up land they have won during 29 months of fighting.

Mr. Koljevic, regarded as a moderate, told Borba the solution to the war lay in talks between the three war-

ring communities.

The main problem we face — the international community and ourselves — is how to discourage the Muslims (from fighting on) and convince them that the war options is not the right one."

"Now that they have been defeated in their offensives, we hope they will sit down at the negotiating table and realise that a political, not military solution, is the only one possible."

The big powers want the Security Council to freeze Bosnian Serb foreign trade, finance and travel.

They said the sanctions against Yugoslavia should be eased to allow international air travel and sport for 100 days while international monitors check the border blockade.

The restrictions would reappear automatically if monitors discovered the Yugoslavs were supplying the Bosnian Serbs illegally with fuel or military equipment.

Hong Kong readies for 1st fully democratic election

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Candidates lobbied voters and distributed manifestos Saturday as Hong Kong readied for its first fully democratic election under British rule.

The last-minute preparations for Sunday's election climaxed weeks of intense campaigning which have highlighted how party politics is blossoming in Hong Kong before China recovers the colony in 1997.

A record 757 candidates are contesting 364 seats on district boards — community bodies which advise the government on garbage collection, where to put bus stops and other local concerns.

Although the issues are local, analysts hope the election will provide a guide to how Hong Kong's political landscape will look in the final critical years before China takes over.

Key is whether the Democrats, who swept the last election for the legislature in 1991, can head off challenges from nearly half a dozen new political parties, including a pro-China alliance fighting its first-ever election.

Analysts also want to see how independent candidates, who have done well in the past, fare against rivals now backed by parties whose campaign machines are becoming increasingly slick.

Whatever the outcome, analysts and politicians agree that the election already has proved that Western-style politics can find roots in a colony once regarded as being interested only in making money.

"Hong Kong people have taken to politics more readily and quicker than any other society I have seen," Michael Degolyer, an American sociologist who is studying the election, said in an interview.

Mr. Degolyer predicts that up to a record 800,000 people will vote Sunday, which would suggest continued support for electoral reforms devised by Gov. Chris Patten against China's wishes.

Mr. Patten's reforms scrapped appointed seats on the 18 district boards and for the first time allowed all candidates to be directly elected.

The reforms also have added thousands of new voters by lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, and have given the boards the power to elect a sixth of the legislature.

Mr. Patten's reforms came after years during which the government tried to stall calls for more democracy by arguing that Hong Kong people were politically apathetic. The government only introduced direct elections in the legislature in 1991, and then only for 18 out of 60 seats.

Meanwhile, the chief Chinese negotiator said Saturday it is up to Britain whether any real progress will be made at Sino-British diplomatic talks scheduled for Tuesday on Hong Kong's 1997 handover to China.

Guo Fengmin, speaking on his way to the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) meeting in Beijing, was quoted on local radio as saying that Britain had to show sincerity if progress was to be made.

Sri Lanka to elect president on Nov. 19

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's presidential election will be held on Nov. 9, the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said Saturday. The elections commission has called for nominations on Oct. 7, it said.

Sri Lanka's new prime minister, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, is expected to be the presidential candidate of the People's Alliance (PA), which won last month's general election by a narrow margin.

The United National Party, the former ruling party, which held power for 17 years, has already named opposition leader and former government minister Gani Dinanayake as its candidate.

Almost 11 million people are eligible to vote.

The new government has said it plans to scrap the executive presidency, as part of a package of constitutional reforms by the latter part of next year.

China pressure may push for Taiwan independence

TAIPEI (R) — A campaign by Beijing to isolate Taiwan internationally could fuel local demands for independence for the island, government spokesman Jason Hu said Saturday.

"Communist China... taken thinks its new isolation policy can prevent the so-called 'two Chinas', 'one China, one Taiwan' or the development of Taiwan independence," Mr. Hu, director of the government Information Office, told reporters before leaving to visit the United States and Japan.

"This understanding runs completely counter to the reality," Mr. Hu said.

The Nationalist government in Taiwan and China's Communist rulers both say they want to reunify the territories but have failed to agree on the means, with Beijing threatening an invasion if the island declares independence.

Taiwan's people currently are not in favour of a split from China forever, but this could change if Chinese methods of isolation create extreme disgust and disappointment among the island's residents," Mr. Hu said.

Many Taiwanese were angered this week when the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Monday bowed to Beijing's threats to boycott next month's Asian Games in Japan if Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui attended, and effectively withdrew his invitation.

Increasingly strident calls for independence in recent years by the island's opposition parties, slowly strengthening since the lifting of martial law in 1987, have struck a chord with many people.

Conference to focus on persecuted writers

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Several persecuted writers, including Bangladesh's Taslima Nasrin, are expected next week at a conference devoted to their plight and free speech.

Others will miss the event. They are in prison for speaking their minds.

The Norwegian Writers Union called the two-day event in the west coast town of Stavanger to focus on seven persecuted writers, including Ms. Nasrin, who fled to Sweden from death threats in Bangladesh last month.

They will also discuss British-Indian author Salman Rushdie, although there was no confirmation he would attend.

"Through these, we hope to draw attention to the at least 700 writers in the world who are being persecuted by their countries governments, or threatened by others," said Union Chairman Thorvald Steen at a news conference.

Mr. Steen said Ms. Nasrin plans to attend the symposium on freedom of expression, which opens Wednesday and is expected to draw about 300 people.

Mr. Rushdie has lived in hiding since 1989, when Iran's theocrats declared his book, *The Satanic Verses*, blasphemous against Islam and ordered his death. He has frequently turned up unannounced in Scandinavia.

"It is just as exciting every time to see whether he pops up or not," Mr. Steen said. Ms. Nasrin was threatened by Islamic fundamentalists in her homeland in Bangladesh. She is living in seclusion in

Sweden after fleeing in August from death threats. "One thing the symposium will focus on is the battle between fundamentalism on one side and tolerance on the other," Mr. Steen said.

A year ago, Norwegians were stunned when William Nygaard, the Norwegian-language publisher of Rushdie's books, was shot twice and severely wounded in Oslo.

Police have not solved the case. But Mr. Rushdie and Mr. Nygaard both suspect that the attack was linked to the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

During the symposium, seven Norwegian writers will present cases of seven persecuted writers selected by the International Pen writers group.

The seven are: Mr. Rushdie, Ms. Nasrin, Hwang Suk-Yong of South Korea, Ken Saro-Wiwa of Nigeria, Mansur Mohammad Ahmad Rajih of Yemen, Yndamiro Restano of Cuba and Bozidar Stokich of Tajikistan.

Mr. Steen said other writers were also invited. He said he was especially disappointed that Ismail Besiki of Turkey could not attend. Mr. Besiki, a Turk, has been jailed off and on for the past 20 years for his repeated defence of the Kurdish minority in Turkey.

"He now has a sentence of 1,400 years in jail for his efforts," Mr. Steen said. "He is tough and that is why he is punished." Mr. Steen said he felt obliged to call attention to the Kurds' plight and to Mr. Besiki's courage.

Swedes vote amid waning SDP support

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's Social Democratic Party (SDP) has suffered a further loss of popularity, according to an opinion poll published on the eve of Sunday's elections, but it is still expected to lead the next government.

A Gallup Poll in the daily Expressen Saturday showed the SDP's support falling 2.3 percentage points to 42.8 per cent, confirming a trend seen in earlier polls.

The last Gallup/Expressen poll on Sept. 8 showed the SDP's support falling 5.2 points to 45.1 per cent.

Pollsters say voters who are committed to retaining Sweden's welfare state have begun deserting Mr. Carlsson's SDP in favour of smaller leftist or centrist parties.

Despite the drop however the SDP is still set to win the lion's share of the vote, and party leader Ingvar Carlsson is considered likely to oust conservative Prime Minister Carl Bildt.

Ingvar Carlsson will probably be prime minister, but the question is what kind of government we will have," said Anders Sannerstedt, political science professor at Lund University.

Mr. Carlsson has said he would prefer to work with the centrist Liberal or centre parties.

One of the country's top industrialists, former Volvo boss Pehr Gyllenhammar, entered the campaign Saturday with a direct last-minute appeal for Swedes to vote for the Liberals.

According to the Expressen poll, an SDP/ Liberal coalition would gain just over 50 per cent of the vote.

Ghali alarmed at Cambodian immigration law

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has written to Cambodia's head of state expressing concern that a new immigration law could endanger ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia.

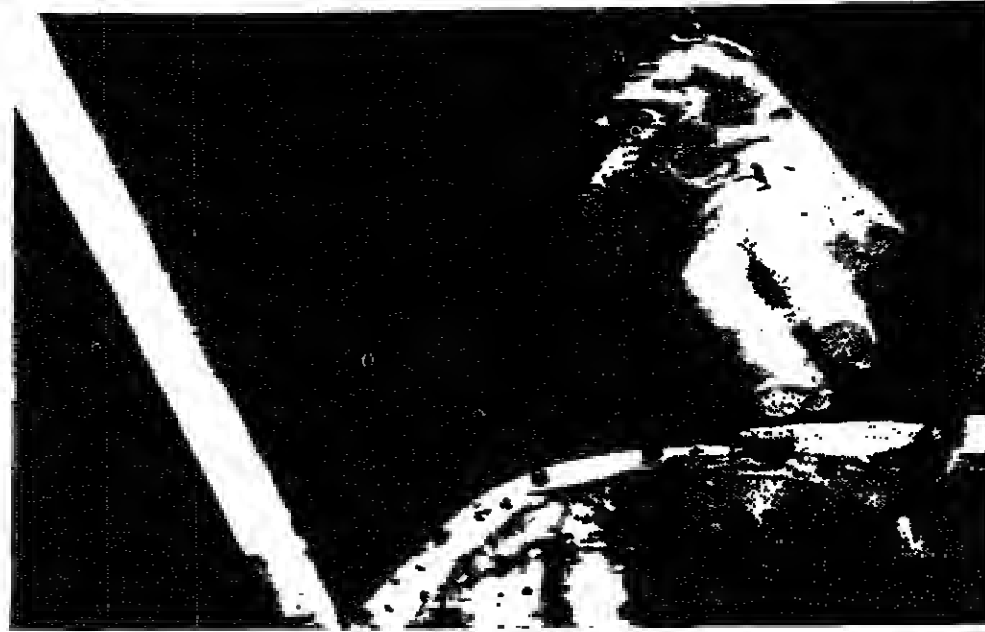
In a letter sent to King Norodom Sihanouk, Dr. Ghali said he has also written to Cambodia's two prime ministers urging them to meet a request by the Vietnamese government to hold urgent talks over the immigration law.

He said he and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were "very concerned by the repercussions that this law risks to have on persons of Vietnamese origin residing in Cambodia and those that find themselves stuck at the border," at Chrey Thom.

A copy of the Sept. 13 letter was obtained by Reuters Saturday.

Guy Janssen, a UNHCR field officer, has criticised the law, which allows for identity cards to be confiscated and people to be expelled within seven days of being deemed illegal aliens.

Human-rights groups say the law, enacted last month but yet to come into effect, could be used to deport Vietnamese en masse, and an estimated 6,000 ethnic Vietnamese stranded at Chrey



Space shuttle Discovery astronaut Carl Meade rotates in space using the new Simplified Aid For EVA Rescue (SAFER) unit above the shuttle's cargo bay with the edge of the Earth above his head. Meade along with fellow astronaut Mark Lee are evaluating the units during the first untethered space walks in America's space programme in ten years (AFP photo)

2 spacewalking astronauts unhook lifelines, fly free

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Two jet-propelled astronauts unhooked their lifelines to space shuttle Discovery and flew free 150 miles (240 kilometres) above Earth Friday in the first untethered spacewalk in 10 years.

Mark Lee and Carl Meade had only one jet pack between them and took turns flying with the one-of-a-kind, \$7 million unit. The jet pack is meant to be a life preserver for space station crews of the future.

"This thing works like a champ," Lee said as he hovered over Discovery's cargo bay, firing tiny jets to guide his way.

He was only the seventh person to fly free in space. Meade was no. 8.

The next step was even more dramatic: With a brilliant blue Earth as a backdrop, Lee and Meade stood at the end of Discovery's 50-foot (15.25-metre) mechanical arm. Meade, his feet secured to the crane, shoved Lee into a head-over-heels tumble of the sort a spacemaker might experience in an emergency.

Meade apparently didn't realise his own strength, and Lee somersaulted again and again. Lee asked him to be more gentle. Meade obliged, and this time Lee did a slow-motion pirouette.

The trickiest exercise of the seven-hour spacewalk had each spacemaker propel himself along the length of the shuttle arm, which was bent at a sharp angle. They scooted from the shoulder to the elbow, around the bend, up to the end and then back down again — over using their hands.

Looking down at Earth, Lee said: "I'd like to say hello to all my classmates at the 20th reunion at the Air Force Academy. I wish I could be there, but as you see someone's got to fly high cover for all of you."

Until Friday, only six astronauts had walked in space without a lifeline to the mother ship, all in 1984. The first was NASA's Bruce McCandless.

Each of the first six human satellites used NASA's massive manned manoeuvring units, which were mothballed because of their size and expense.

The new jet pack, called SAFER — for Simplified Aid For Extravehicular Activity Rescue — weighs just 83

pounds (37.6 kilograms) on Earth but, like everything else, nothing in space. It is not nearly as thick or cumbersome as the old one. There are 24 tiny nitrogen gas jets, and the spacemaker guides himself with a joystick.

The rules for the spacewalk were simple: No flying more than 25 feet (7.6 metres) from Discovery and no speeding. And only one spacemaker untethered at a time.

The average speed of each jet-propelled spacemaker was just one-half foot per second (15 centimetres per second), or a measly one-third mph (one-half kph). The maximum speed of the jet pack is 7 mph (11 kph).

Discovery's commander, Richard Richards, closely watched the spacewalkers, ready to come to the rescue if the jet pack failed.

Spacewalkers will require a lightweight jet pack like SAFER when building the space station. A shuttle docked to a station wouldn't be able to undock fast enough to save a spacemaker from floating away into the void.

Discovery's 10-day mission is due to end Monday.

Russia to tighten nuclear security

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Moving to confront concerns of huge gaps in Russia's nuclear security, the Kremlin Saturday prepared to send a top security official to Germany after ordering a tightening of the nation's nuclear safeguards.

The head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, successor to the KGB, will meet with the Germans on efforts to crack down on illicit nuclear trade. An international uproar over several smuggling incidents prompted the two sides to pledge cooperation last month in the battle against nuclear outlaws.

Sergei Stepashin's departure Sunday comes on the heels of sweeping measures ordered by President Boris Yeltsin to improve the con-

trol and safekeeping of nuclear materials.

The decree, announced late Friday, establishes new rules for the storage, use and transportation of nuclear materials and tightens border controls to try to prevent nuclear smuggling.

It also instructs that a commission be created within the next two weeks to examine the registration and storage of nuclear materials, with representatives from several government ministries.

The international community largely blamed last Russian security for the series of recent seizures of radioactive materials, citing Russia or Ukraine as the likely source.

The Kremlin accused the Western press of sensationalism and denied that 350

grammes of plutonium confiscated last month — by far the largest amount seized — came from within its borders.

But privately, Russian experts were quoted as saying Russia had no way of accounting for or protecting its bomb materials.

In the August agreement with German officials, Moscow acknowledged the "urgent necessity" of working to stop the illegal trade in radioactive and nuclear material.

Mr. Yeltsin's wide-ranging decree is a tacit admission that the nation's nuclear security is flawed.

Even so, Mr. Stepashin Saturday retained the government's angry posture about media reports.

Indonesia registers 4,000 additional islands

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia has acquired about 4,000 previously unknown islands, a press report said here. The Suara Karya daily quoted the head of the National Survey and Mapping Coordinating Agency, Paul Suharto, as saying that the country, which already boasts 13,000 islands, has registered a further 4,000 after a geographical survey. The newly discovered islands are thought to have been submerged when the last survey was conducted.

Fire trucks converge on White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three fire trucks rushed to the White House alerted by a report that someone smelled smoke. But aides said there was no fire, just the smell. A light fixture short-circuited and there was a strong odor, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "Nothing has burned at all." Fire officials were told the report originated on the second floor, down the hall from Mrs. Hillary Clinton's office, said White House spokesman Arthur Jones. The report was called in by an aide in the office of Carol Rasco, Mr. Clinton's domestic policy adviser. Ms. Myers said. "Everything's fine, everything's under control. There was absolutely no threat, no danger of a fire, Ms. Myers said.

AIDS-infected man detained for 'public safety'

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Health authorities here detained a man infected with the AIDS virus after deciding that his behaviour posed a risk to the community, officials said Saturday. Graham Rouch, chief health officer for the state of Victoria, ordered the unidentified 25-year-old man held at a secure ward in a local hospital, the state's Health Department said. The department said the man, who tested positive for the Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV), was released recently from prison, where he had been jailed for sex offences. Chris Brook, the Victoria state director of public health, said the man was detained Thursday under public-health legislation in the interest of public safety. Melbourne Age newspaper said the man was the first to be taken into custody in Victoria under these circumstances.

'Hollywood madam' arrested after drug test

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Reputed "Hollywood madam" Heidi Fleiss was in federal custody after allegedly testing positive for drug use. A spokeswoman at the Federal Metropolitan Detention Centre confirmed Ms. Fleiss was in custody. A law enforcement source who spoke only on the condition of anonymity said Ms. Fleiss was arrested at her Venice home after violating conditions of her pre-trial release by testing positive for drug use. Ms. Fleiss, 28, is accused of providing high-priced prostitutes to Hollywood moguls and celebrities. Ms. Fleiss and her father are scheduled to go on trial on federal tax fraud charges. Ms. Fleiss also faces a separate set of state charges — five counts of pandering and one count of selling and transporting cocaine. The state trial is expected to start on Sept. 26 and last several weeks. The state case is not expected to reveal the names of Ms. Fleiss' alleged clients from the show business world, but the later federal trial could. Ms. Fleiss has pleaded innocent.

Inflatable doll soothes lonely troops, travellers

SOFIA (AFP) — A Bulgarian gypsy with an eye for a quick profit is running a booming business aboard trains and in barracks by offering his inflatable doll for hire, a daily newspaper said Friday. The daily 24 Tchassa said the doll was available in train toilets and in the Haskovo barracks in southern Bulgaria, for about two dollars for a brief assignation, \$8 for two hours.

Epidemics rage unchecked in Rwanda

NAIROBI (R) — Hospitals and clinics in Rwanda lie in ruins, most health workers are dead or have fled, and the rainy season is about to add to the miseries of mass murder and recently-ended civil war.

Returning from a two-day fact-finding mission to Rwanda, World Health Organisation Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima said the central African country was suffering from an acute shortage of staff, medicines and cash.

Hospitals and health facilities in Rwanda have been looted and extensively damaged. About 75 per cent of health workers have either been killed

led or have fled. Of 5,300 workers with the Health Ministry, only 25 per cent have returned, Mr. Nakajima told Reuters late Friday.

"These face an enormous task in the almost complete absence of funds, supplies and equipment."

Rwanda's blood transfusion services have ceased to function and there is no more screening for the HIV virus that leads to AIDS.

War and mass movements of refugees have led to a dramatic increase in the rise of HIV transmissions.

Before civil war erupted with the murder of President Juvenal Habyarimana in April, available data indicated that HIV infection

rates ranged from 20 per cent to 30 per cent among the urban population and less than 10 per cent in rural areas — some of the highest rates in the world.

Over 200,000 Rwandans were reported HIV positive by the end of 1992.

Mr. Nakajima said that as many as 40 per cent of the Rwandan population could now be carrying the AIDS virus.

In the capital Kigali, 33 per cent of all women were believed to be HIV positive.

Between 50 and 60 per cent of the defeated army, mainly from the majority Hutu tribe and now in exile in Zaire, was estimated to be HIV positive, the WHO head said.

He called on the new Tutsi-dominated government, installed by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front in July, to guarantee security so that health workers could return to work.

"We have asked the new leaders to intensify efforts at reconciliation. They need to pacify the population. We need to have all surviving manpower to face these diseases," he said.

Rwanda's population was estimated at up to eight million before April but U.N. workers believe that as many as one million people, mainly minority Tutsis, were killed in massacres led by the Hutu army and militia.

Mr. Nakajima listed early

identification of epidemics, rapid re-establishment of safe blood transfusion services and the procurement and distribution of essential drugs and vaccines as the WHO's top priorities in Rwanda.

He said Rwanda's national epidemiological monitoring system had been entirely destroyed and called for urgent repairs to tackle epidemics of cholera, dysentery, acute respiratory infections, meningitis, tuberculosis and malaria.

"Epidemic outbreaks could delay or even reverse the return of refugees and add an unbearable burden to people who have already suffered untold hardships," he said.

More than one million Rwandan refugees, mostly Hutus, are languishing in squalid camps in eastern Zaire, afraid to return home. Thousands were dying daily of disease in July.

Mr. Nakajima said the imminent onset of the rainy season, which can last nine months in some areas, would increase the incidence of disease.

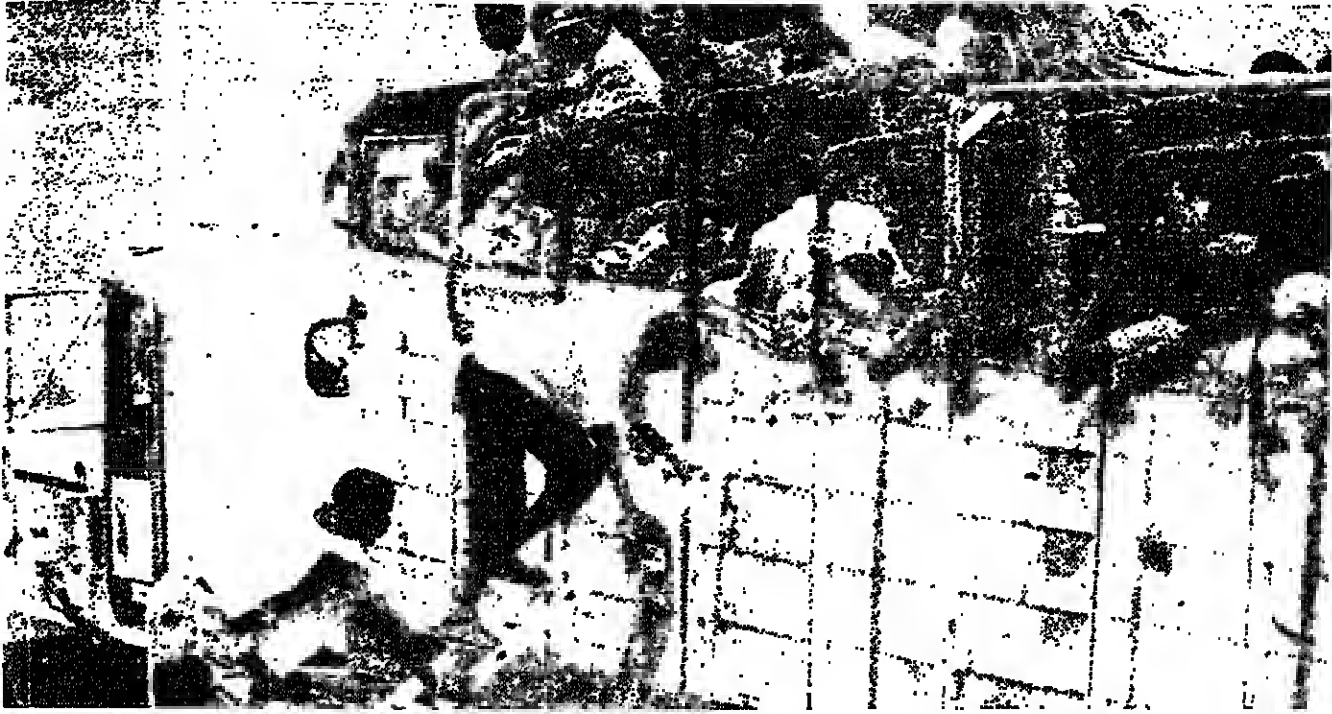
Meanwhile, a mutilated corpse has been found on a rubbish dump near Rwanda's Kigali Airport, possibly another victim of reprisals carried out by victorious soldiers of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), aid workers said Saturday.

The dead man, aged about 30, had been bound at the wrists and ankles and beaten to death, his skull fractured.

Two other corpses and a third man, barely alive, were found at the dump on Sept. 9. An international aid agency said witnesses had reported RPF soldiers in the area shortly before the bodies



A Hutu refugee from Rwanda sells fish from the nearby Lake Kivu at the Mugunga camp, in the eastern Zairean region in Goma. Rwandan refugees are trying to improve their daily diets and compensate for international food-aid shortages by trading local resources (AFP photo).



A Red Cross worker orders a Hutu to step down a truck, unable to take on excess passengers. This truck was taking some of the two numerous Rwandan refugees to the Kahindo camp, located 55 km north of Goma Zaire (AFP photo).

African troops move into Liberian fortress

MONROVIA (R) — African intervention troops in Liberia moved into a tribal militia's fortress Saturday, disarming fighters linked to a failed coup.

Witnesses said ECOMOG troops overcame minor resistance by the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) when they entered the Barclay Training Centre in central Monrovia, seizing large quantities of arms.

At least 61 AFL soldiers were in ECOMOG custody after backing General Charles Jule's bid to seize power on Thursday, the interim government's Information Ministry said in a statement.

Gen. Jule was captured, beaten and stripped by civilians who recognised him Friday on a Monrovia street when he was trying to escape disguised as an Arab.

ECOMOG, whose intelligence officers were interrogating Gen. Jule and his detained men Saturday, used heavy weapons to flush the putschists out of the executive mansion, traditional seat of Liberia's president.

ECOMOG said three of its men were wounded and five

AFL rebels and one civilian were killed in the assault.

"When we are through with our investigation, we will turn (Jule) over to the government and you may do with him whatever you wish," ECOMOG's Nigerian commander, General John Inienger, told Liberia's interim head of state, David Kpomakpor, Friday. "You may free him or try him, that is your business."

Mr. Kpomakpor, due to leave office later this month under the terms of Liberia's latest peace accord, has pledged to punish Gen. Jule with the full force of the law. If tried and convicted of treason he could be hanged or shot under Liberian law.

The AFL, once the West African country's national army, is little more than a militia of the minority Krahn tribe.

Men of two smaller Krahn militias, the Liberia Peace Council (LPC) and a faction of the Ulimo Group, were spotted by reporters with Gen. Jule inside the executive mansion when he gave a news conference before his defeat.

ECOMOG soldiers Saturday cleared out the 700-strong community of Krahn fighters and their families who had camped behind the executive mansion since 1990. The men were mostly members of late President Samuel Doe's personal guard.

Bystanders booed as the sullen Krahn filed out of the compound carrying mattresses and cooking pots.

AFL's commander, General Hezekiah Bowen, emerged from ECOMOG's protective custody Friday. "I have ordered my men to arrest all those involved in the plot and turn them over to ECOMOG," he told reporters.

Gen. Bowen is one of three warlords who signed the latest peace accord in Ghana on Sept. 12. Civilian groups have condemned the deal and its United Nations and African sponsors, saying it will install a military junta in Africa's oldest republic.

Another signatory, Charles Taylor of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), is in deep trouble. He is battling to recover territory lost this month to NPFL dissidents and men loyal to the third warlord, Alhaji Kromah of the tribal faction in ULIMO.

At least 10,000 civilians have fled south from formerly Taylor-held territory, Liberian officials said. Foreign relief sources say thousands more have poured into Ivory Coast to escape militia fighting in northeast and southeast Liberia.

A relief worker in the southern Ivorian town of Tabou, 22 kilometres from the border, told Reuters Saturday at least 3,500 civilians had crossed the frontier in the past three days. "There are many more on the other side but they don't have the money to pay boatmen to cross the Cavally river," he said.

U.N. military observers, detained and then released by Liberian militias, were resting in a hotel Saturday in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's capital. The United Nations says 18 of the 43 observers from 13 nations are still unaccounted for.

The observers said they were barred from speaking to the press by U.N. officials.

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Burundi violence claims 62 lives

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Fighting between the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army and extremist Hutus has claimed 62 lives, according to official figures published by the Defence Ministry here Saturday.

The fighting, which broke out at the beginning of the week, left 60 Hutus and two soldiers dead, while four other soldiers were wounded, according to the figures.

Clashes erupted early Tuesday, two days after Burundi's political parties signed a power-sharing agreement between the country's minority Tutsi opposition and the Hutu majority.

The army restored calm Wednesday and was continuing operations in the Kamenge district, stronghold of the extremist Hutus opposed to the power-sharing agreement.

Following the army operation, 385 people were taken in for questioning, the Defence Ministry said. Of these, 300 were subsequently released.

Elsewhere, the army said it confiscated six rifles, six rockets, seven grenades and a quantity of ammunition.

Burundi's majority Hutu party, the Front For Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), condemned a Friday assassination attempt on one of its deputies, saying the country "risked being drawn into a spiral of violence."

The deputy, Norbert Ndirikubwayo, was driving his car through Bujumbura when two young men forced him to stop, said FRODEBU President Cornelle Buzigye, speaking on Radio Burundi.

The two then opened fire, wounding Mr. Ndirikubwayo in the neck and leg, said the same source.

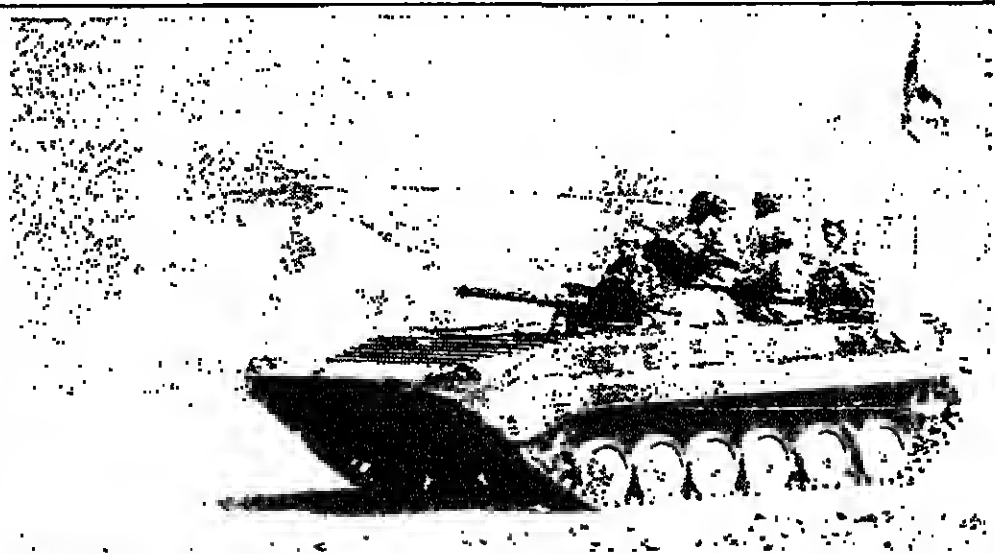
Unidentified assailants carried out a terror-raid Friday on Buyenzi marker in the west of the Burundian capital. The raiders fired shots into the air before fleeing to avoid police.

A similar raid took place before dawn Thursday in a residential district near Bujumbura's presidential palace.

The violence has led to fears that the situation in Burundi could erupt into the sort of carnage recently witnessed in neighbouring Rwanda, where the ethnic mix is similar.

Inter-ethnic killings here have been sputtering since the assassination last October of President Melchior Ndaye, a Hutu, during a coup attempt.

Mr. Ndaye was elected president in June 1993 in Burundi's first multi-party elections.



Russian soldiers seated on an armoured personnel carrier pass by a helicopter as they return to Zugdidi in Abkhazia from their peacekeeping action from a 12 kilometre zone on the Georgian-Abkhazian border. Armed Abkhazian units took up positions along the border between Georgia and Abkhazia throwing the proposed return of Georgian refugees to the breakaway republic of Abkhazia into doubt (AFP photo).

Shevardnadze's handshake with Abkhazian leader causes mixed feelings

TBILISI (AFP) — Television pictures of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze shaking hands with breakaway Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba during talks on the return of refugees to the territory, caused mixed feeling in Tbilisi Saturday.

Mr. Shevardnadze's attendance at the tripartite meeting, held in Abkhazia, with Mr. Ardzinba, and Russian officials surprised even senior Georgian officials Saturday.

"My first impression was that by shaking hands with the victor in the Abkhaz war, Mr. Shevardnadze was humiliated," said Alexander Rondeli, head of international relations at Tbilisi State University.

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Mr. Ndaye was elected president in June 1993 in Burundi's first multi-party elections.

But the leader of the opposition Union of Traditionalists party, Akaki Asatiani, welcomed the meeting.

"It's a bit late and it would be better to talk directly with Ardzinba without the Russians, but it's a good thing," he said.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev attended the meeting Friday trying to solve the row over the refusal of the Abkhazians to allow the return of 250,000 Georgian refugees who fled the breakaway region of Abkhazia during fighting there last year.

Fedor Starcevic, the U.N. representative in Georgia, said Mr. Shevardnadze cancelled engagements Friday

after Gen. Grachev phoned him from his aircraft, asking him to fly to the Black Sea resort of Novy Afon in Abkhazia to meet with him and Mr. Ardzinba.

The Russian news agency ITAR-TASS quoted Gen. Grachev as saying another round of talks would take place Saturday, but in Tbilisi, where Mr. Shevardnadze returned Friday, a government spokesman could not confirm whether or not the Georgian leader would participate in further talks.

The Abkhazian authorities have refused to allow refugees to return as long as Georgia does not withdraw troops the Abkhazians say are still present in the region.

N. Ireland welcomes Major's referendum promise

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister John Major's promise of a referendum on any changes to Northern Ireland's status, a move meant to reassure the fervent Protestant majority, got a wide welcome Saturday.

But his lifting of a broad-cast ban on the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein failed to get assurances he hoped for that a two-week-old IRA ceasefire would last forever.

Mr. Major, making a one-day visit to the province Friday, said he hoped lifting the six-year broadcast ban would give Sinn Fein the opportunity to make clear the IRA's ceasefire would last "in all circumstances and for all time."

The Sinn Fein deputy leader Martin McGuinness, grilled by callers on a live television show just hours later, refused to use the words that Mr. Major was looking for.

"I believe the ceasefire will hold in all circumstances," he said, but added: "How can I as a representative of a legitimate party say anything is permanent for all time? I haven't got the luxury to be able to do that."

In an earlier interview, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams repeated demands from the organisation for a "complete demilitarisation" to include Protestant armed groups and some sort of gesture by the British Armed Forces.

"That requires all of those involved in armed actions to get involved in the process of demilitarisation," Mr. Adams said.

Sinn Fein was planning rallies across the province Saturday to demand this demilitarisation.



British Prime Minister John Major (left), flanked by Northern Ireland Minister Sir Patrick Mayhew (2nd left), speaks to the press at Stormont Castle in Belfast. Major lifted a six-year-old broadcast ban against Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (AFP photo).

form the basis for the talks, which will include Northern Ireland's elected political parties.

No time has been given for these talks but London and Dublin's "Downing Street Declaration" of last December said they could start three months after a permanent IRA ceasefire.

Mr. Major's promise of a referendum on any changes suggested by the talks process was widely welcomed, if cautiously.

"The majority of voters in Northern Ireland are British voters who want to retain Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom," said John Taylor, a member of parliament for the mainstream Ulster Unionist Party.

"So long as we exercise our vote sensibly I believe that we can safeguard our own position within the United Kingdom by means of a referendum."

Paddy Ashdown, head of the opposition Liberal Democrat Party, welcomed Mr. Major's announcement.

"It reinvests the peace process with a bit of momentum and that was important. It was beginning to sag a little," he said.

"Second, it's the concrete fundamental reassurance for the unionist majority in Northern Ireland for which they have been seeking."

The Irish Times in Dublin said Mr. Adams would start a visit to the United States next week.

Quoting reliable sources in Washington, the newspaper said the U.S. administration had lifted a ban on official contacts with Sinn Fein and would be offering Mr. Adams a visa. It said he could meet national security adviser Anthony Lake in Washington.

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Mandela warns protesters against violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela expressed concern Saturday over a spate of radical protest measures and promised tougher action to halt it.

Mr. Mandela, whose African National Congress waged a widespread campaign of anti-government "mass action" before South Africa's first all-race elections last April, told a rally in the northern Cape Town of Springbok that his government would uphold the right of protest.

"However, there is a growing tendency to abuse this right by engaging in acts of violence or violation of the rights of others," he said.

"The holding hostage of individuals during protest actions is a criminal act which the government cannot tolerate."

"The setting alight of public property as we witnessed recently is an act which if not ceased forthwith, will prompt the government to consider actions to ensure that this does not happen again."

A Johannesburg library was burned down Thursday during violent protests by mixed-race "coloureds" demanding the same rental concessions awarded to blacks.

Black students at a technical training college north of Pretoria held a white government official hostage in his office for 48 hours this week to back demands that jurisdiction over the college be transferred from the Labour Ministry to the Education Ministry.

Last month striking truck drivers blockaded three major roads, causing damage to the economy estimated at millions of rand.

Mr. Mandela said the greatest challenge facing the ANC was to foster a spirit of national reconciliation.

"We have to stop looking at ourselves as the opposition. Our mission must be rededicated to improving production and the creation of more job opportunities," he said.

Five people were shot dead overnight and several wounded when gunmen opened fire on a tavern in a black South African township, police said Saturday.

They said AK-47 assault rifles were used in the attack in Inanda, north of Durban on the Indian Ocean coast.

The motive for the killing was not known

The area has long been torn by political rivalries and turf wars between gangs.

At least 19 people were wounded Saturday when police teargas, rubber bullets and birdshot at the rioters in the mixed-race township of Reiger Park east of here, reports said.

The independent Radio 702 said 19 people were wounded while police spokesman Lieutenant Jan Combrinck said "Several people" had been hurt as protesters, demanding that their water and electricity arrears be written off, marched on the local council buildings and set fire to the electricity accounts office.

Combrinck said an overnight murder, which police have not immediately linked to the protests, had raised the temperature of the protests.

"They were very angry and when we arrived on the scene they hurled stones and petrol bombs at us," Lt. Combrinck said.

Police retaliated with teargas, rubber bullets and birdshot.

Jordan Times

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Cry reform

THERE IS no denial that Jordanians endure one of the highest tax burdens in the world. Not only do Jordanians pay direct income tax, comparable in its scale to industrialised nations, but they pay customs and fees on all imported goods, including food and clothes. They also pay levies to the government in the form of licences, building permits and fees for government services.

Politicians and economists alike have for decades called for tax reform that would place more emphasis on income tax and less on indirect taxes. The same people have recognised that such reform cannot be achieved separately from a restructuring of the civil service. But almost every concerned citizen realises that the decision to modernise the civil service is a political one that requires a great deal of boldness and courage.

It is in this spirit that we look at the recent formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation. We recognise and acknowledge the fact that governments, though often having a Royal mandate, were short-lived and devoid of any determination or guts to pursue such an essential task. We, therefore, hope that the Royal Commission would not limit itself to the updating of investment legislation and the fight of corruption, but would approach its task from a universal perception that would deal with the root cause of these problems.

The bureaucracy will always resist change. For this reason, reform of the civil service, and then of the taxation system, can only be done from outside the bureaucracy itself.

However, the Royal Commission needs to approach its task both methodically and in a humane manner. The task requires an in-depth study by a group of experts who should include private sector managers and preferably international professionals. Afterwards, policy headlines need to be devised, coupled with a timetable that would ensure that any major "surgical" decisions would not negatively affect large segments of a population which already suffers from poverty and a high rate of unemployment.

Paramount among the strategies of the Royal Commission should be the realisation that any genuine reform must be part of a long-term plan which, while progressing rigorously, should not lead to upheavals or misery. But this plan should not be derailed or halted from achieving its ultimate goals.

A new Jordan in a reshaped region cannot possibly face the challenges of the coming era with an outdated and inflated bureaucracy, nor can it hope to build a modern country with an archaic and patched up taxation system.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily described the Oslo deal one year after its birth as a project of extreme importance for the Palestinians as it paves the ground for the eventual establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Tareq Masarweh said that the self-rule areas in Jericho and Gaza are only a prelude for the creation of a Palestinian state, and for that reason the Israelis are intent on aborting the Palestinian plans. Furthermore, said the writer, Arab states and probably foreign powers could be working in secret to abort the Palestinian plans and prevent the creation of a Palestinian state. The writer said that the Palestinians are diligently working towards the final objective. The writer called on the Arab countries to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians who have now taken control of their own destiny and who are in need of support to establish their independent authority.

IT IS regrettable that the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo has failed to tackle the question of inter-Arab reconciliation because half the ministers who attended were not on speaking terms with the other half, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that the meeting has also failed to respond favourably to a call by Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein who urged the Arabs to refrain from signing final peace treaty with Israel before the Jewish state reaches an agreement with the Palestinians on the final status of Jerusalem. As on many Arab citizens, we have the right to look forward to the day when the Arab countries can reach a decision through the Arab League to translate their empty slogans into facts on the ground, said Mr. Adwan. He said that the Arab World is in need of leaders who can help Arab states to at least establish some kind of union similar to that of the European Union, which groups different nations with a long history of conflicts.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Investment climate, leave it alone

THOSE WHO follow up on the bitter criticism of investment climate in Jordan, calling the investors march as the road of pain, are justified to think that the Jordanian authorities are in the habit of torturing investors. They simply conclude that Jordan is not a good place for investment, and that it needs an administrative and legislative revolution to reform and overhaul the had and corrupt investment climate and to stop pushing investors around to make them abandon their investment plans. But is this true or is it a sheer exaggeration in inflating problems out of proportions?

To answer this crucial question we should read the facts as they are in real life during the last two years to find out that investment was extremely high, reaching levels we never dreamed to reach. Capital formation in Jordan exceeded JD 1.2 billion a year or over 30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). What do we need more? Can the Jordanian economy absorb more investments before it is oversteered?

On the other hand we look at the primary market of the newly-established shareholding companies to find that all shares offered were oversubscribed by the public to the extent that the shares of some companies were covered 10

times or more. The prices of shares of most new companies doubled before those companies commenced operation, an indicator that the public is overeager to finance new projects. Do we need more?

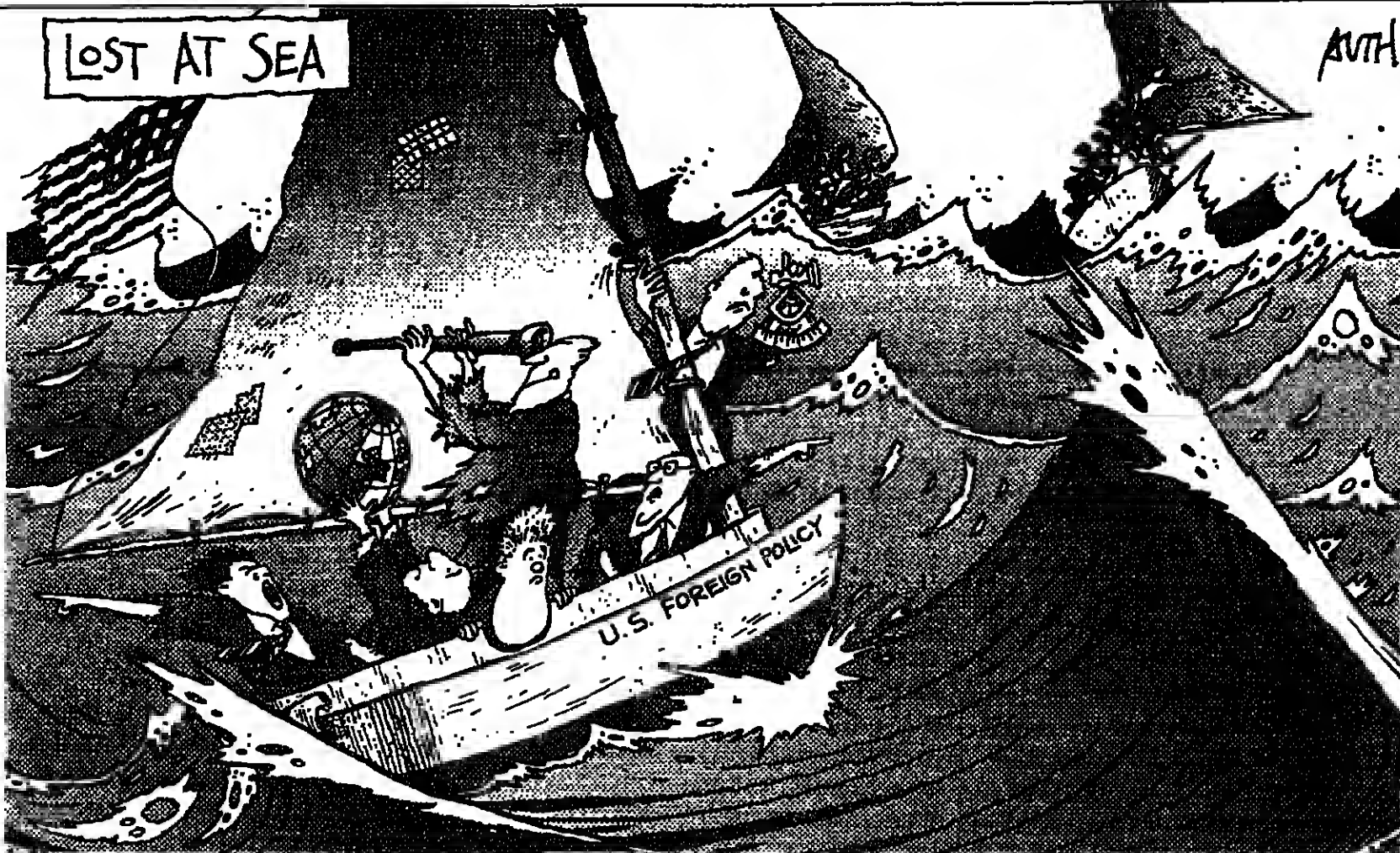
It is not true that the local, Arab and foreign investors in Jordan are mistreated in any way. On the contrary, they enjoy royal treatment. Suffice it to make a short visit to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to notice that investors come to the ministry as sultans, they speak to the employees as if they are their slaves with nothing to do except to approve all their demands. If investors are met with a small difficulty, or if one of their requests needed more time, they do not hesitate to break into the minister's or the undersecretary's office, with no previous appointment, and complain loudly, and finally get not only what is right but perhaps more. The tax exemptions granted to new investors are agreed to be too huge and beyond reason.

Perhaps we have to dwell a little bit on what is sometimes casually described by critics as undue complications of licensing process, which is often described as the passage of torture and pain, to find out that these accusations were never supported by actual examples of investors who failed to get the requested licence within a reasonable period of

time if their projects complies with laws and their papers are in order.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade became aware of the necessity to remove any excuse of the critics in this regard. It decided to establish a unified investment window, where investors do not need to tour many ministries and other governmental institutions involved in licensing a new industrial project. Behind that window, representatives of all related departments such as health, environment, public security, municipality, etc. will sit together, receive the potential investor's application, and come up with their answers in a next meeting within one or two weeks. The investor will thus have one place to submit and receive the response in a short period of time. The Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation picked up or rediscovered the idea. It will be included in its forthcoming report of recommendations, but the Ministry of Industry and Trade would be well-advised not to wait, but to implement its own idea before it is imposed on it by the commission.

The investment climate in Jordan can definitely be improved, but it is good enough and it gave excellent results. May be the best thing to do regarding the investment climate is to leave it alone.



The folly of uniting Europe while slicing it into two

By Brian Beecham

AEGINA, Greece — If you want to muse about the future of Europe, a good place to do it is under the columns of the hilltop temple of Aphaia, on this Greek island of Aegina. To the north, visible across the water on a clear day, is the Acropolis of Athens. To the south is Epidaurus, ancient shrine of medicine and the theatre. To the west lie Corinth and Thebes, great powers four centuries before Christ.

Like today's Europeans, the classical Greek knew what it means to belong to the same part of the map. They were all Hellenes, all part of Hellas. Unlike some of today's Europeans, they did not draw the conclusion that they ought therefore to become a single state. At the time when classical Greece was raising its light to the world, Athens was Athens, Sparta was Sparta, and so on. They came together for shared purposes — to fend off the Persians, for instance. But they kept their independence from each other because they were different places, each with its own ideas and its own separate flavour.

It is worth remembering this as the advocates of European Union propose the latest variation of their plan to hammer different

Europeans into a single political entity. The new project — the creation of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur of France, and some of the top people in Germany's governing Christian Democratic Union — is unlikely to succeed, because it faces exactly the same difficulty as all the other projects for European unification.

As things stand, the countries that belong to the European Union decide some relatively minor matters by a system of majority voting but any really big decision — on foreign policy, defence, the economy — requires the consent of everybody. This works quite well, since those who lose the argument on the fairly small majority-vote issues suffer no fundamental damage (though even here a fair amount of evasion and rule-breaking goes on). But it does not satisfy the unifiers of Europe, precisely because it leaves the big things to unanimity, and the unifiers are well aware that there will seldom be unanimity on the big things; there is generally a veto ready to be used.

This is why they have proposed the extension of majority voting to a wider range of subjects, including some of the big issues — and presumably, in the end, to everything that shapes

the lives of Europeans. They are right to say that, without this, the present European Union is not really a union at all. They would like to "deepen" it into the real thing.

But this has run into the obvious objection. The trouble with the veto, say the unifiers, is that people like to use it. We should therefore agree to abolish it. Even in the present European Union of 12 members it will be impossible to bring off this non sequitur. The British want to hang on to the right to say no. So do the Danes. There are others who privately agree, even if the magic of the word "union" makes them hesitate to say so out loud.

It will get even harder to abolish the veto if the EU grows to 16 or 20 members. Of the countries next in line for joining, Sweden and Norway are both anxious to preserve their own special flavour, so they will try to hold on to the unanimity principle on the big issues. Some of the East Europeans, especially Poland, feel the same. And if it comes to look as if Germany could organise an overriding majority out of the influence it wields in Northern and Eastern Europe, the South Europeans will be increasingly reluctant to find themselves

caught in a defeatable minority.

Enter the unifiers' latest suggestion. If some Europeans do not like where full union might take them, at least let the true believers get on with it. The next steps towards a federal Europe, say Mr. Balladur and Wolfgang Schäuble, the CDU parliamentary leader, can be taken by an inner group of five countries — Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Do not believe it. It is not just that the idea infuriates Italy, the excluded member of the original European Six; or that the rest of the present EU dislikes the thought of being formally relegated to a sort of second division; or that there is something funny about saying you want to unite Europe while in fact slicing the current union in two. The real implausibility of this scheme lies within its chosen five countries.

In one of them, the Netherlands, recent opinion polls have shown a degree of hostility to the concept of a federal Europe that would make it very hard for a Dutch government to sign up to the Balladur-Schäuble plan. More important, it is highly unlikely that France, whatever Mr. Balladur now

says, would agree to tie itself so tightly to Germany with nobody else except the three little Benelux countries in the package.

Since Germany's reunification, the French-German balance of power the French once stubbornly believed in has vanished forever. Germany is now far stronger than France in money, in the influence money can buy, and in the military power Germany will be able to deploy around the world by the end of the century. Tied one-to-one to such a Germany, the French will do what the Germans want, not the other way around.

This is why, in any tightly bound Europe, France needs Britain and Italy and Spain alongside it to help counterbalance that German strength. It is why five into one will not go. Nobody likes swallowing an unpleasant truth, but this is the truth now in France's throat.

Ah, say the Eurounifiers, it may look like this when you are sitting among the pines by a hilltop temple on a Greek island; but would not classical Greece have been an even better place if it had unified itself, and should Europe not seize the chance that Greece missed?

The honest answer is no. A unified ancient Greece might indeed have been

spared those bloody wars between its city-states. But Europe no longer faces that particular danger. The Germans and French and British have learned the lesson of the 20th century. They are not going to fight each other again, whatever their formal constitutional relationship. And, for the rest, the Greek example does not point Europe down the road to political unification.

The glory that was Greece, in the 5th and 4th centuries B.C., required no all-Greek Parliament sitting in Thebes, no commission with an office in Corinth, no pan-Hellenic army commanded (one fears) from Sparta. The great new light of philosophy and culture and politics that burst upon the world in those centuries was at least in part a product of Greece's very diversity and variety. When Greece was eventually made into a single state — by that cold outsider, Philip of Macedonia — the light never shone so brightly again.

Even now, though, there is a certain clarity in the Greek sky that aids those peering into the future. Perhaps the theoreticians of European unity should come and lean against the columns of Aphaia.

International Herald Tribune.

Greek parliament sends another ex-premier to trial

By Stephen Weeks
Reuters

ATHENS — For the second time in less than five years the Greek parliament has sent a former prime minister to trial on charges of corruption and bribe-taking in office.

Once again the accused — this time former Conservative prime minister Constantine Mitsotakis — has protested that the charges stem from Greece's vicious political vendettas and not any real evidence.

"It's an act of personal revenge aimed exclusively at me," an angry Mitsotakis told parliament shortly before the vote on Thursday night.

The Socialist-controlled parliament voted to send Mr. Mitsotakis to trial before a special 13-judge court on charges of accepting a \$12.5 million bribe while in office from 1990 to 1993.

The bribe was allegedly paid during the 1992 sale of the state-owned Hercules Cement Company to Greece's national bank and Italy's Calcestruzzi Cement, which was later bought up by a series of office scandals.

Since the Socialists won elections in October, parliament has voted to send Mr. Mitsotakis, premier from 1990 to 1993, to trial on separate charges of illegally tapping the telephone of his political rivals.

Mr. Mitsotakis, 75, has vehemently denied any wrongdoing and has blamed one man for his present woes — Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, a bitter and long-standing foe.

"My prediction is, and I have promised Mr. Papandreu it will happen, he will end his sinful and turbulent political career with the stigma of a slanderer," Mr. Mitsotakis told reporters after the vote in parliament.

The two men — opposites in style, temperament and background — have dominated the political scene for 15 years. And although Greek politics have never been for the faint-hearted, Mr. Mitsotakis and Mr. Papandreu

seem bent on turning the political arena into a take-no-prisoners war zone.

When Mr. Papandreu was defeated in 1989, Mr. Mitsotakis led a relentless campaign in a Conservative-controlled parliament to have him charged with corruption and illegal phoning.

Mr. Papandreu also dismissed the allegations as a crude political vendetta aimed at destroying his Socialist Party and he snubbed a special 13-judge court by refusing to attend.

He was cleared of all corruption charges in January 1992 and Mr. Mitsotakis then had parliament drastically drop the eavesdropping charges.

The obsession with pro-

secuting political opponents, now a popular pastime for both major parties, overshadows all other pressing problems, such as staggering public debt and tensions with almost every neighbour from Albania to Turkey.

And taken together the charges against Mr. Mitsotakis seem to mirror the charges against Mr. Papandreu in 1989. Few commentators seem to feel Mr. Mitsotakis will ever be convicted.

"This is simple tit-for-tat and the sum total is zero," said political commentator Vassilis Rafailidis.

Indeed, with municipal elections next month and national elections possible

in May, several commentators attributed the criminal charges against Mr. Mitsotakis to Greek-style pre-election campaigning.

But several party leaders also expressed concern that Greece must devote more attention to issues of national importance and give up the steady stream of accusations of criminal wrongdoing levelled against defeated political foes.

"The political system must stop being a hothouse where scandals are bred and the country must be safeguarded from the nightmare of recycling scandals," lamented the leader of the small left-wing Coalition Party, Nikos Konstantopoulos.

Feature
King reiterates
Continued from page 1
The king reiterated his commitment to the peace process and his support for the Palestinian people. He also expressed his hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Middle East.

PNA sees talks on
Continued from page 1
The PNA sees the possibility of talks between the various factions in the region. It believes that dialogue is the only way to achieve lasting peace and stability.

'Last' bid to end H
Continued from page 1
This is the last bid to end the conflict, the PNA believes. It is a final attempt to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict and to establish a lasting peace.

King reiterates resolve

(Continued from page 1)

tant matters on which it had to concentrate its attention and find solutions as well as set up policies that could guarantee these solutions.

The recently formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan aims at finalising draft laws and laying the ground for arrangements to ensure and safeguard the Kingdom's excellent reputation, the King said.

"We are about to enter an era which will witness the execution of numerous and diversified projects and we want our people to be reassured of their implementation. So we should prevent huge funds from being diverted towards certain circles and parties that do not benefit the Kingdom and do not understand the Kingdom's needs," King Hussein said.

"We want our people to be reassured about the soundness of all decisions that are executed within this framework," he stressed.

King Hussein said that peace negotiations with Israel were going on well and Jordan would arrive at its objectives with God's help and the efforts of its people.

"Through cooperation with all concerned parties and the endeavours of the Jordanian negotiators, Jordan is bound to arrive at a just and honourable peace acceptable to the coming generations," he said.

King Hussein emphasised the need to bolster national unity and asked the government to ensure that its policies and decisions reflect this concept in embodiment of Jordan's noble and humane stands.

He said that this question ought to be given top priority at all levels so that "every citizen can feel he is an integral part of this nation."

The King said Jordan was

targeted by external forces and in these critical circumstances: "We have to remain steadfast because our genuine traditions and steadfastness constitute our cherished treasure that serve us in the darkest circumstances."

At the Cabinet session, which was attended by Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of State Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh reported on the outcome of last week's Arab League Council meeting in Cairo, noting that the Jordanian delegation supported a draft resolution on Jerusalem because he said it ran in conformity to the Jordanian position.

Minister of State Talal Al Hassan reported on the outcome of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting held in Islamabad, noting that the Jordanian delegation reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand concerning Jerusalem and the Islamic Waqf there.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who spoke at the end of the session, pledged that the government would do all it can to cooperate with the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation to fulfil its objectives and with the legislative authorities in enacting laws.

Following the Cabinet meeting, Information Minister Anani told Jordan Television King Hussein was convinced that the peace process would lead to the execution of important economic decisions that would further solidify the national economy and ensure security and stability in the Kingdom.

Referring to Jordan's contribution to the U.N. force in Haiti, Dr. Anani said that Jordan would not participate in the military forces as was allegedly reported by news agencies but would only send a team of policemen to help supervise peace and offer humanitarian services to the local population.

He said no date has been set for the departure of this force.

PNA sees talks on elections

(Continued from page 1)

Boutros Ghali, the officials said.

PECDAR head Ahmad Qourica, said by PLO officials to have resigned as head of economics in the Palestinian authority, did not attend Saturday's meeting.

Officials said Mr. Qourica, also known as Abu Alaa, had tendered his resignation from the authority because of what he regarded as mismanagement of Palestinian institutions. He would only say he had made no public announcement of any resignation.

Officials said authority finance head Mohammad Al Nasbashi, but not Abu Alaa, accompanied Mr. Arafat to Cairo for the PECDAR meeting.

Dozens of wheelchair-bound veterans of the Palestinian uprising against Israel on Saturday aimed their protests at a new address: Mr. Arafat.

Demonstrators onside Mr. Arafat's headquarters while the weekly meeting of Mr. Arafat's self-rule government was in progress, the handicapped youths demanded jobs and better medical treatment.

"We are soldiers of the uprising. You have to provide jobs for us," read one placard held up by the protesters, all of whom were hurt in clashes with Israeli troops during the seven-year revolt that paved the way for Mr. Arafat's return to Gaza.

'Last' bid to end Haiti crisis

(Continued from page 1)

nican Republic on Friday. "We will resist" an invasion, the army chief of staff, Philippe Biamby, declared Friday. At army headquarters, soldiers were distributing rounds of ammunition to civilians and plainclothes troops.

Jamaica's former prime minister, Edward Seaga, said in Kingston that he spoke to a Cedras aide this week to arrange a peaceful solution. Mr. Seaga said the plan was derailed by public exposure.

Gen. Cedras helped lead the coup that toppled elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide three years ago, and in October, he reneged on a U.N.-brokered deal to return the former priest to power. Army animosity to the leftist Aristide is a main stumbling block to any negotiated return.

During the early morning hours Saturday, U.S. planes showered the Haitian capital with leaflets urging Haitians to stay home, put down their weapons and repudiate vengeance.

The tracts, in what one local described as "different Creole from the Creole we talk," were the third pamphlets to be dropped over Port-Au-Prince this week.

Previous messages have encouraged the return of Mr. Aristide and preached messages of reconciliation, democracy and justice.

U.S. warships continued to be visible from the shoreline Saturday.

The peace mission marked Mr. Carter's first visit to Haiti since he headed a delegation, which oversaw the election of Mr. Aristide in the country's first free and fair ballot in December 1990.

Mr. Aristide was elected with more than two-thirds of the vote but served only eight months of his term before being toppled by Gen. Cedras and other officers in a bloody September 1991 coup.



SINGING THE TROUBLES AWAY: Sarajevo residents wave peace flags and sing songs as they join in a peace demonstration (AFP photo)

Bosnia: Culture offers the seeds of survival

By Lyric Wallwork Winik and Dzenita Mehic

WASHINGTON — Bosnia has become like the man who sits outside the clinic for reconstructive surgery in Sarajevo on sunny days, the man without a face. A bomb has destroyed his chin, cheeks, nose and mouth. He is carnage with eyes.

People walk by and look away. They cannot bear for an instant to let their eyes meet his face.

Bosnia is full of faces. Not just of men like that one, but of widows carrying water pails, of young children who do not recognise something as simple as an egg, of computer engineers who have become bird hunters, trapping crows for a bit of meat, of filmmakers willing to clean streets in return for a few moments of peace.

In their emaciated bodies and artificial limbs, in their struggle to get up, go out and live each day, Bosnia exists. It is a population and a place.

But how to save this place? Bosnians in Sarajevo have wrestled with this question even as they have learned to pick their way along the streets, to step over bodies blown apart by shells, to endure fires, the cold, hunger, filth and the shattering of almost every window in Sarajevo.

They have repeatedly asked themselves how, even as they have learned to live on drips of water, bursts of electricity, and fragile supply lines.

The answer lies not just in the struggle they wage with meager guns and shells, with the barest of defences.

For two years the Bosnian have waited for the

one-sided arms embargo to be lifted, but it has not been. They have waited for the Americans to come, but they do not.

For Bosnians, the answer lies not simply in military survival or outside salvation, important as these are, but in cultural survival.

This is a battle waged with words, images and expressions. It is a struggle by artists, writers, filmmakers and journalists — the famous and the ordinary — to create a cultural record, especially in Sarajevo.

Cultural survival is based on the premise that, in Bosnia, many people do not base their identity on religion or nationality that would divide as well as define. In this multi-cultural nation, they continue to cling to the idea that they are simply Bosnians, a people with a past and with a future.

Denied every military weapon by the United Nations, Bosnians turn to culture as the last weapons to preserve themselves and their nation. It is an act of defiance in the face of unbridled destruction.

Cultural survival began during the height of the war. Without paints, without canvas, as many as five are galleries opened in Sarajevo. Artists worked with whatever they could find — bricks, broken glass, burnt automobiles. Movies played at a cinema, where the only entrance was hidden in a backyard. The city's theatre remained open, run by an actor who lost both legs in a shelling.

Fashion shows premiered, with designs stitched from used U.N. plastic tarpaulins.

Newspapers were printed irregularly in basements

and sold by the reporters on the streets. Five radio stations broadcast across the city, powered by batteries.

These moments of culture are small but necessary triumphs in the face of international waffling and wanton ruin. They are the seeds of survival.

With each painting, each play, each concert, Bosnians challenge violence with tolerance, fascism with art and ideas, destruction with creation, death with humour.

This summer, during the promise of the ceasefire, Sarajevo even held a cultural festival called Baby Universe.

And all this has meaning. When the shelling picks up, sounding the threat of another Serbian offensive (as it did last week in an apparent effort to keep the Pope away), the Bosnian people will continue to fight

to save their nation with art, music, ideas and words.

Cultural survival has become the message that no artificial lines drawn on maps by guerrilla armies or indifferent diplomats can repeal the spirit of Bosnia or undo the nation and its people.

It is perhaps the only hope of a people and a place struggling to survive in plain view of a passive America and its allies.

It is also a warning against any plan imposed by the outside world that would sacrifice, rather than preserve, the Bosnian nation and the Bosnian ideal.

Lyric Wallwork Winik is a writer. Dzenita Mehic is a journalist with Radio 99 in Sarajevo and currently a fellow at the National Forum Foundation. They contributed this comment to The New York Times.

A general with an iron fist

By Andrew Downie
Reuters

PORT-AU-PRINCE — In conversation, Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras is articulate, erudite and even charming.

But his silken personality encases the iron fist of a man who has ruled while more than 4,000 mostly defenceless people have been killed and thousands more raped, tortured and beaten.

The lantern-jawed lieutenant general, who seized power in a bloody coup three years ago this month, is all contradiction.

He is light-skinned in a country that is 90 per cent black. Methodist in an overwhelmingly Catholic state and sits in a study filled with well-thumbed books amid a population in which an estimated 95 out of 100 people cannot write their own names.

Before the September 1991 coup, Mr. Cedras seemed a secure and even admirable figure in the world community.

He was awarded international acclaim for providing security to voters in Haiti's first-ever free elections in December 1990. And he was appointed to the nation's top military post, commander-in-chief of the Haitian armed forces, by a grateful President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who won the election with a huge majority.

But Mr. Cedras's appointment was a decision Mr. Aristide would live to regret.

Within eight months of

Mr. Aristide's swearing-in, the man known as the general remained atop the armed forces. But he also headed a military regime that overthrew the popular Roman Catholic priest and sent him into exile.

Mr. Cedras has been portrayed in many comp accounts as an unwilling participant forced into the limelight by the real players, Michel Francois, now Port-Au-Prince police chief, and Philippe Biamby, a boyhood friend who is now Mr. Cedras's chief of staff.

Despite widespread human rights abuses and intractable resistance to Mr. Aristide's restoration, many diplomats swallowed Mr. Cedras's image as the reasonable leader of the ruling trio.

"I genuinely believe he knows he made a mistake," said one senior diplomat who met regularly with Mr. Cedras, referring to his decision to go along with the September 1991 coup.

But quiet Mr. Cedras dropped the facade last October when, amid a rash of vicious pro-military violence, he reneged on a U.N.-mediated deal in which he had agreed to resign and allow Mr. Aristide's return.

For the past 11 months, Mr. Cedras has thumbed his nose at an increasingly exasperated international community to the point where U.S. President Bill Clinton has called him a killer and mobilised thousands of troops to invade his tiny, impoverished homeland.

Born July 9, 1949, to



Raoul Cedras

wealthy merchant parents in the southern town of Jeremie, Mr. Cedras aimed early for a military career. His father was a supporter of brutal dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and when Duvalier's son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier took over as president in 1971, Mr. Cedras was one of the first cadets to enroll at the capital's newly opened military academy.

He graduated in the class of '73 along with Mr. Biamby and Jean-Claude Duvalier, now his second in command at army headquarters. Shortly afterwards he married Yannick — a hard-headed businesswoman described by those who know her as soulless and power hungry — fathered three children, and rose through the ranks until he was promoted to colonel in January 1989.

Mr. Cedras speaks fluent

French and Spanish as well as passable English, but refuses to speak in the latter tongue, saying the time it takes for his interpreter to translate questions allows him vital seconds to think.

He is famous among journalists for indirect answers to even innocuous questions.

A keen volleyball player and scuba diver, Mr. Cedras, 45, often spends his weekends at his gorgeous beach front home just north of Port-Au-Prince. It is there he can relax with other officers and his personal bodyguards.

"The army is condemned to serve the people," Mr. Cedras said a few months before Mr. Aristide was elected. "The victories we have to respect will not be the battles won by machine guns but by those who fight to make our society more humane."

Slovak farms sink into debt

By Chris Sulavik
Reuters

RUSOVCE, Slovakia — For centuries, these verdant lowlands hugging the Danube have yielded some of Central Europe's most bountiful harvests.

But since the fall of Communism in 1989, Slovak agriculture has suffered insolvencies and property disputes which have delayed the swift restructuring needed to cope with new market demands.

At the Dunaj farm cooperative in Rusovce, west of Bratislava, general director Anton Markovic stares from his modest office at the newly harvested wheat fields.

Here business practices have scarcely changed since the fall of Communism.

"We can't afford new equipment, our buyers aren't paying us for months, subsidies have been cut," Mr. Markovic said. "This vicious circle has to be cut somewhere."

According to the Slovak Agriculture Ministry, some 90 per cent of Slovakia's 957 farm cooperatives are in the red, mostly because of debts racked up by distributors and the failure of food processing companies to pay.

A ministry official said at least 20 per cent of Slovak cooperatives will go bankrupt in the near future.

Slovakia's 140 state farms, which are faring even worse than the cooperatives, have also fallen behind on the road to a market economy.

"State farms have no chance to survive. We need large-scale production, increased productivity, and new technologies," Mr. Markovic said.

Slovak state farms and cooperatives received about seven billion crowns (\$247.7 million) in subsidies, down from 15 billion (\$530.8 million) in 1989.

Half of all direct subsidies, making up three per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), were made to the farm sector last year, Slovak officials said in a report to the World Bank.

The Dunaj cooperative, which produces about 15,000 tonnes of wheat, rye, and barley annually, gets five per cent of its production costs through state subsidies, just a third of what it used to receive under Communism.

Some say Slovakia's farming crisis could be caused as much by the continuation of Communist-style working practices than by a lack of subsidies.

"Under Socialism, it was production at any cost. (Farmers) didn't care about hedgerows, soil erosion, over-fertilising," said Donna Batcho, a U.S.-sponsored agriculture expert who advises Slovak authorities.

Mr. Batcho said pervasive over-staffing on farms only made the problem worse.

"One co-op had 25 tractor drivers and needed only three... Only a precious few (farmers) have a real overview on running a farm," she said.

She said entrenched insolvency and hard-to-get loans also posed problems. Despite this apparent threat to their future, Slovak farms just keep on producing for their insolvent customers.

In 1993 agriculture contributed 5.9 per cent of Slovak GDP, up from 5.2 per cent in 1992.

Improved EU jobless statistics mask fragility of new work — analysts

PARIS (AFP) — A marked improvement in unemployment figures across the 12-nation European Union (EU) is masking the underlying fragility of new jobs, according to labour analysts.

Jacques Delors, the president of the EU's executive European Commission, said in Brussels this week that although the economic recovery was stronger than forecast, it would not be enough to make a significant dent in the jobless totals unless it was coupled with strict employment policies.

"The recovery should not lead us into relaxing our structural efforts and into forgetting about massive unemployment," he told the European Parliament.

Unemployment in the EU currently stands at 10.8 per cent of the working population.

The jobless total for the community in 1994 is predicted to be 19 million, equal to the combined populations of Portugal and Belgium.

Trends towards lower unemployment have continued since July, except in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Countries that came under the EU's average unemployment figure of 10.6 per cent of the working population in July included Luxembourg, Portugal, Germany (not counting the former East Germany), Britain and Belgium.

France, with 11.3 per cent unemployment, came eighth,

ahead of Italy on 11.8 per cent and Spain, with 22.1 per cent unemployment.

A recent study by the European Social Institute (ISE) highlighted the worry that in spite of special measures to promote stable employment, the reforms that most of the countries have embarked upon have slowed off towards Britain's "extreme" example of promoting low-value jobs.

Across the EU, structural reforms have resulted in the development of part-time work, stop-gap jobs and a much greater flexibility.

Britain has enjoyed steady falls in unemployment, to 9.2 per cent of the active population in July from 10.5 per cent in the same month last year, on the back of a speedier recovery than the rest of the EU. Growth of 2.75 per cent is expected to be posted this year.

The Conservative government has trumpeted reforms that have made Britain the most deregulated and flexible market in Europe.

There is no minimum wage, and the procedures for hiring and firing are simpler than elsewhere in the community.

Part-time work in Britain now absorbs a quarter of the workforce, taking in six million workers out of a total 25 million.

The self-employed sector has also expanded substantially, but jobs for salaried staff have remained stagnant.

France has devoted much of its efforts to youth training schemes, reducing employers' contributions for low-paid workers and relaxing labour law through a five-year plan on job creation.

Despite two months of falling jobless figures, long-term unemployment is still affecting 1.18 million people, a third of the jobless total.

Job creation remains fragile, and new jobs are often tied to contracts of limited duration, according to the state statistical institute INSEE.

In Germany, unemployment has levelled out on the back of 2.8 per cent growth in the first half of the year for the whole of the country, according to the Federal Labour Office.

Jobs have sprouted in processing plants and in the construction and service industries in the east of the country, but experts have noted a tendency among employers to avoid youth training, or to ditch youngsters at the end of their apprenticeships.

In the Netherlands, part-time and temporary work has accounted for much of the improvement in the job creation figures.

The new government has said it wants to create 350,000 jobs between now and 1998 by reducing employers' welfare contributions, by adhering to a strict policy of the low wage rises, and by creating special jobs for the long-term unemployed.

New taxes to tackle UAE budget deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A decision by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to hike fees on government services and introduce new taxes will sharply boost its non-oil income and help tackle its budget deficit, bankers said Friday.

The fees, covering a wide range of government services, are expected to fetch the Gulf state more than one billion dirhams (\$272 million) a year, over one third of its total non-oil income, the bankers said.

The taxes, endorsed over the past month, will be enforced at the start of 1995 and will mostly affect the foreign community, which accounts for nearly two thirds of the UAE's population of around two million.

"Considering the large number of expatriates living in this country, a simple calculation will show the new fees will bring in much more than one billion dirhams a year," a UAE bank manager said.

"There is no doubt this will help the government tackle the deficit in the federal budget since such a deficit has shrunk to a little more than one billion dirhams over the past few years due to austerity measures," he added.

The fees, the most sweeping since the UAE was established from a federation of seven emirates in 1971, covered such areas as immigration, traffic, health and arms licences for nationals.

A new annual residence tax of 100 dirhams (\$27.2) will alone earn the UAE around 140 million dirhams

(\$38.1 million) a year.

Other immigration fees involved 30 dirhams (\$8.44) as a departure tax, 100 dirhams a day for overstay, and 500 dirhams (\$136.2) for extending a visitor's visa.

Fees on transit visas, naturalisation applications, and passport issuance or renewal for nationals have been raised by between 20 and 50 per cent.

Similar increases were also introduced on fees for registration of vehicles and motorcycles, issuing driving licences and other traffic services.

Arms licences fees, which are restricted to locals, were also hiked by nearly 50 per cent to 350 dirhams (\$95.3) for a personal gun and 250 dirhams (\$68.1) for renewal of the licence.

Licences for trading in arms also soared by 50 per cent to 400,000 dirhams (\$108,991) and arms manufacturing to 300,000 dirhams (\$81,743).

Indian premier urges higher spending to back reforms



P.V. Narasimha Rao

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday urged local industry to absorb new technologies and raise investment to ensure higher production and sustain economic reforms.

Mr. Rao, addressing the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said business executives should improve their management and spend more on research and development.

"It is imperative for the Indian industrial sector to work for higher growth rates," he said, adding that growth in industrial production had been only moderate since economic reforms began in 1991.

India's industrial production, which shrank in the first year of reforms, has been boosted in the past few months, touching eight per cent last July.

Mr. Rao said the reforms

are becoming out of date before we become up to date," he said.

Indian companies spend less than 0.6 per cent of their sales revenues on creating technologies compared with nearly six per cent in some developed countries.

Mr. Rao also asked for more private investment in India's infrastructure, in power, roads and telecommunications, to allow the government to shift resources to social benefits.

"Development of infrastructure is critical for industrial and economic growth," Mr. Rao said, adding there was a definite change in the attitude of foreign investors who were now reducing their emphasis on consumer goods.

were on course and irreversible and global investors were confident of the Indian market.

Nearly 16,500 projects involving foreign investment of \$6 billion had been cleared since 1991 and \$1.5 billion flowed into the Indian bourse last year alone, Mr. Rao said.

He said Indian companies raised \$2.5 billion through foreign issues of equity and bonds and 250 billion rupees (\$3 billion) from the domestic bourses.

"Now that the Indian corporate sector has raised so much money, it needs to be translated into new industries," Mr. Rao said.

Industry needed to invest larger sums in creating technologies through research and development, to encourage skilled labour and to quickly upgrade management skills and improve labour relations, Mr. Rao said.

"Indian industry should have higher outlay for research and development. We

"Our priority is infrastructure and foreign investors have accepted this. Today 80, 85 per cent of foreign investment is coming into infrastructure," the prime minister said.

India has opened up its infrastructure industry to private companies and is seeking huge foreign investment to build roads, ports, power stations and telephone networks, but is yet to set clear guidelines for most of them.

Many foreign companies, especially in telecommunications, are anxiously awaiting entry rules before deciding on whether to go ahead with major investment.

Mr. Rao also urged industry to expand into rural areas to create jobs and assume more social responsibility to protect the poor during the transition from four decades of socialist economics to an open market.

Rwanda struggles in financial vacuum

KIGALI (R) — Two months after the end of civil war, officials at Rwanda's central bank cannot fathom the depths of its financial crisis because they cannot open the vault.

Bank officials suspect nothing of value is left behind the doors of the German-built vault because ousted Hutu government officials looted the contents before fleeing the capital Kigali.

But amid the plush carpets and leather chairs of the National Bank of Rwanda, one of the few government buildings to escape shell damage in the three-month war, they cannot be sure.

"For the moment we haven't been able to discover what has been taken because we cannot get inside the safe," Peter Rwakayigamba, second vice-governor of the bank, told Reuters.

"Until we do so, we cannot know what is the state of the country's money supply," he said.

August but revived as people trickled back to the capital and it became clearer what the toppled government took with it into exile.

Within a week, 300 francs to the dollar was hard to find and hotels only offered 150 because of a shortage of banknotes as much of the national currency was in Zaire along with more than a million refugees.

Former officials of the ousted Hutu government have been seen daily handing out huge wads of crisp Rwandan franc notes to defeated soldiers and militiamen in eastern Zaire refugee camps.

Pierre Gashumba, cabinet director at the finance ministry in Kigali, admits the new government faces a big economic problem.

"We are forced to use whatever money is still in the system because the (commercial) banks, the motors of the economy, are both empty and closed," he told Reuters.

"What we have is not enough to pay salaries and regenerate the economy."

He said the ministry was attempting to raise money from the international community through aid. Finance Minister Marc Rugemera spent the last two weeks in Washington negotiating for loans.

"The world knows Rwanda's needs so we are optimistic," he said of the talks with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. But U.N. sources said they feared Mr. Rugemera was meeting some problems.

N. Korea renews bid to attract foreign capital

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea has renewed a bid to lure foreign capital, but it has intensified ideological control to check against a flow of Western information, southern monitors said Saturday.

South Korea's officials Naewoo news agency said Pyongyang lifted a ban last week on trips by foreign trade officials and businessmen, allowing them to tour industrial facilities.

So far, invitations have been limited to Chinese, Russian, African and some Asian nations, the monitoring agency said.

"Information sifted from its media shows that Pyongyang is now eager to attract foreign investment," said one monitor charged with collating the scant information from the closed Stalinist state.

But the move, coming at a time when Pyongyang watchers say a rapprochement with Washington could help the

North earn hard currency needed to lift its hobbled economy, appears to conflict with the North's current ideological campaign.

An influx of foreign investors would inevitably undermine its socialist system, Naewoo officials said.

Since the death of President Kim Il-Sung on July 8, North Korea has generally tightened a ban on contact between its people and foreigners while solidifying the leadership of his son and heir-apparent, Kim Jong-Il, they said.

"On work sites ideological education has been almost doubled and school children's visits to 'revolutionary sites' stepped up," said one Naewoo official.

He added that curbs on travel by individuals nationwide had also been intensified, and that any person wanting to enter a foreign investment zone needed special approval, for what the

Foreign partners doing business in Pyongyang have complained about bleak business conditions stemming from isolation, lack of energy and infrastructure, they said.

The North's low credibility from past failed contracts has been cited as the biggest obstacle.

In one of the few known examples in the West, North Korea in February 1985 entered into a joint-venture contract with a French construction firm to build a majestic 46-story hotel in Pyongyang.

But work on the mammoth project ground to a halt in 1988 with the French side accusing Pyongyang of breach of contract, Naewoo officials said.

The row over North Korea's secretive nuclear programme has also deepened the North's isolation.

Naewoo monitor called "fear of ideological contamination."

Analysts have long predicted that if the North steps up its campaign for foreign investment it will isolate the investment from all but minimal official contact, and indications point to rigid controls on access to investment zones.

Project realisation since laws were revised in 1984 to lure foreign investors has been dimly slow.

Sketchy official data here showed that in theory 120 of North Korea's 170 joint-venture projects with foreigners have been carried out, with 90 per cent funded by ethnic Koreans in Japan.

But by the end of August only 30 of the joint-venture firms confirmed to be operating in North Korea while the other projects have been suspended or closed down, Seoul officials said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A dispute over money with a family member can cause a good deal of trouble that could last for some time and could call for a considerable amount of time and effort to fix. Keep a cool head now and don't say anything you may regret.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your mind is full of ideas for your progress in the future, so make notes on how to handle them. Have a family conference in the evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Even if it is Sunday, concentrate on ways to get ahead faster so that you can be happier. Save time for family in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Apply some effort and gain personal desire which mean much to you and gain more happiness. Plan to see close friends. Be generous.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to study your philosophy of life. Come to an understanding with the one who means the most to you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Ideal day to analyse your hopes and wishes and to apply effort so that you can gain them more easily. Drive with utmost care while on the highway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Know what your position is with those in the outside world and strive to improve it. Make vocational plans. Gain greater happiness.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get out of that rut you are in and seek more lucrative outlets. Show that you appreciate new acquaintances. Take no risks with your name.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your hunches are good today so be sure to follow them and you can advance more quickly. Be with your mate. Be careful in motion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Situations arise which will make it easier for you to communicate better with others. Visit a good friend in the evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to get your tasks for the future nicely planned and to show gratitude to those who have been of assistance to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your tasks done early and have a good time with friends later. Plan time to perfect some special talent. Avoid someone depressing.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A fine day for being with family. Invite friends in for dinner. Show that you are artistic and courteous. Avoid arguments with your mate.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GLINY
PAMCH
YERTOP
DUNBOA

Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: THINK GNARL DIGEST ROTATE
Answer: What an undercooked steak is in a swank restaurant — A "RAPE" SIGHT

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 11 Use the ring
- 14 Estrangement
- 15 Cessous
- 16 Got through
- 17 Sign on a console
- 18 — up
- 19 French philosopher
- 21 Discourse; abbr.
- 22 Zola
- 23 Contemporary
- 24 Field measures
- 25 Sharp-cornered
- 26 Cripple
- 29 Column order
- 31 Jordan soldier
- 33 Emotionless
- 35 Wet
- 37 Climbing iron
- 38 Make glad
- 40 Glacial ice block
- 42 — putrid
- 43 Common remedy
- 45 Battered
- 47 Mito oaths
- 48 Stairum
- 49 Fingid
- 50 Keen
- 56 Tending to check
- 58 Cereless
- 60 Universal
- 61 Mere youth
- 62 Wiring and dicing

DOWN

- 1 Upper-case letters; broadly
- 2 Dairy case item
- 3 Lower-case letters
- 4 Eye
- 5 Joined
- 6 Aronow's plant
- 7 Headquarters; abbr.
- 8 label
- 9 Ballerina, at
- 10 Conclusion
- 11 Wild pig
- 12 Crip
- 13 Old Greek
- 15 Heavy wooden mallets
- 20 — & machine
- 22 Gals
- 23 Paring word
- 24 Blubber
- 28 One in training
- 27 City on the Seine
- 28 D.C. agency
- 30 Living piece
- 32 Pencil; abbr.
- 34 Hangs down
- 36 Joker
- 39 Latvian port
- 41 Variety of quartz
- 51 Bark
- 44 More piquant
- 48 Fry
- 49 Moral lapse
- 50 Eye part
- 51 Bark
- 52 Explorer
- 53 Turgid
- 54 Primitive weapon
- 57 Keep close
- 58 "Yankee Doodle"

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Sep 15/1994	Tokyo Sep 16/1994
Sterling Pound	1.5620	1.5790
Deutsche Mark	1.5493	1.5445
Swiss Franc	1.2860	1.2820
French Franc	5.2915	5.2810
Japanese Yen	99.45	98.95
European Currency Unit	1.2300	1.2340

USD Per STG
European Opening at 9:00 a.m. (GMT)

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.62	4.75	5.12	5.68
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.50	5.87	6.81
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.93	5.31
Swiss Franc	5.75	5.87	6.12	6.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.81	6.31
Japanese Yen	2.37	2.18	2.31	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.81	6.15	6.81

Interest rate for deposits exceeding 1.5 million dollars or equivalent.

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.696	0.698
Sterling Pound	0.4992	0.4997
Deutsche Mark	0.4499	0.4501
Swiss Franc	0.5451	0.5454
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.0025	0.0026
Dutch Guilder	0.3019	0.3034
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	---	---

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.04035	0.04195
Saudi Riyal	0.18530	0.18620
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.18000	0.18120
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8120
UAE Dirham	0.18840	0.18980
Greek Drachma	0.27357	0.2725
Cypriot Pound	1.5875	1.4975

Arabs expand petrochemical output to meet higher demand

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are setting up new petrochemical projects and expanding existing units to meet world demand and enter new markets expected to emerge after a landmark GATT deal.

Most of the projects are being carried out in Saudi Arabia, which accounts for almost half of total Arab petrochemical output and controls more than a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves.

Saudi Arabia will be the venue of a major Arab conference this year on the prospects for the regional petrochemical industry and the impact of the accord signed by members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in December to liberalise world trade.

A new MTBE unit set up recently by the Saudi company Ibn Sina with an output capacity of 600,000 tonnes

per year has made the kingdom the biggest producer of the substance, with annual output reaching 1.9 million tonnes.

The German firm Zimmer meanwhile is involved in a project to set up a unit producing 140,000 tonnes of polystyrene.

The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), one of the biggest petrochemical firms in the world, is also building a plant to produce a substance used in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride. The plant, the first of its kind in the region, will have a capacity on 150,000 tonnes per year.

In Qatar, the Qatari Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) is expanding its main petrochemical complex to

raise capacity to 520,000 tonnes per year, from 320,000 tonnes, according to the 10-nation O.A.P.E.C.

Qatar also plans to set up a methanol project with a capacity of between 600,000 and 660,000 tonnes per year, at a cost of around \$450 million.

Kuwait, another key Gulf oil producer, is also developing its petrochemical sector. It has signed an agreement with the U.S. company Union Carbide to build and operate a major petrochemical complex that will produce annually 650,000 tonnes of ethylene, 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene and 350,000 tonnes of ethylglycol. The project will be completed in 1997.

Libya, Algeria and Egypt are also setting up new pet-

rochemical projects and raising the capacity of existing units, said O.A.P.E.C.

The organisation groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE, the second biggest Arab oil producer, does not have petrochemical industries but is planning to enter the sector as it presses ahead with projects to tap its enormous gas reserves. The UAE, however, is a major producer of fertilizers, most of which are exported to China.

A recent study by the Dammam-based Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation said regional states needed to invest \$21 billion in petrochemical projects, of

which \$9 billion would be spent up to the year 2000.

Arab states have pumped nearly \$18.4 billion into 913 petrochemical projects, which had a capacity of around 14 million tonnes in 1992 — a fraction of the world capacity of 297 million tonnes.

The conference in Saudi Arabia in December will bring together key Arab oil producers and will be staged under the slogan "towards development of Arab petrochemical industries to deal with the new world economic development."

The meeting is a response to Gulf expectations that the GATT deal will open new outlets for their petrochemical exports and expand existing markets.

Taiwanese seek stake in Qatar petrochemical deal

DOHA (R) — Two Taiwanese companies are seeking an equity stake in a Qatari petrochemical project and buying part of the output, a senior Qatari General Petroleum Corporation (OGPC) official has said.

State-owned Chinese Petroleum Corporation (CPC) of Taiwan, and Lee Chang Yung Chemicals (LCYC) are discussing taking a 12.5 per cent stake each in Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC) which is setting up a \$700 million methanol and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) complex in Umm Said.

Hamad Rasheed Al Nuaimi, deputy managing director of QAFAC who represents the dominant partner OGPC on the QAFAC board, said CPC and LCYC officials were due in Doha on September 18 for negotiations.

QGPC currently owns 50 per cent of QAFAC and the rest is equally shared by Canada's International Octane Limited (IOL) and France's Total S.A.

"If an agreement on Taiwanese participation is

reached, IOL and Total will have to transfer half of their holdings each to new partner," Mr. Nuaimi said.

He said the negotiations were mainly taking part between the foreign partners and aimed at boosting the company's financial base and its commercial viability.

QAFAC is the more advanced of Qatar's two methanol and MTBE projects, approved in 1991 following the arrival of offshore gas after the implementation of the first phase of the North Field, the world's largest single concentration of natural gas.

It had been put on hold due to financial constraints and the implementation of multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas projects which took precedence over all other development schemes.

QAFAC sources said all process engineering and major equipment selection had been completed. "But the financial package, which is the key issue, is still being worked out," one source said.

China sets up investment firm to help education

BEIJING (R) — China has established the first investment firm designed specifically to raise and manage funds to bail out the country's cash-strapped educational system, an official newspaper has said.

The Beijing-based China Education and Science Trust and Investment Corp (CES-TIC) will pool idle funds from richer schools and invest them in a range of funds, including stocks, the China Daily said.

The non-profit institution will provide low-interest loans to schools and education-related enterprises, company chairman and president Wang Xianming told the daily.

"The new corporation aims to reform the management of funds for education by adopting economic measures that suit the country's shift to a market economy," Mr. Wang was quoted as saying.

"CES-TIC will raise funds to support the development of education, science and technology without adding financial pressure to the central government," he added.

The company is part of the preparations for establishing an education bank, Mr. Wang said.

It was jointly set up by the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the State Education Commission and China International Trust and Investment Corp, one of the country's largest enterprises.

An increasing number of Chinese schools have been left to scramble for funds as state subsidies dried up in the wake of economic reforms.

Those reforms have included experiments in stock markets and other capitalist tools.

But in the rush to get rich, some local governments have diverted education budgets to property, hotels, fancy cars and building industrial zones.

To raise money, many schools run factories, charge entrance fees and even demand exorbitant tuition, turning their backs on China's communist egalitarian ideals.

Thailand brushes dust off bartering

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Thai government is brushing the dust off a time-tested form of trade — bartering — and promoting it as a foundation for international business transactions, according to an official statement. The cabinet said it would require state-run agencies to negotiate Thai products as part of payment for any business done with agencies or private firms in other countries, the statement said.

Agencies are to aim at substituting goods for 20 to 50 per cent of the total value of any transaction with a foreign government or private firm, although that figure was flexible, it said.



Auriol is new chief for Forte Grand Amman

AMMAN — The newly appointed General Manager of the Forte Grand Amman, Jean-Pierre Auriol, took over from Charles Barker earlier this month.

Prior to the Forte Grand Amman, Mr. Auriol was general manager of the Forte Grand Beach Plaza Monte Carlo for the past six years. Having worked with Forte Hotels for 16 years, Mr. Auriol has a vast experience in resort and commercial hotel management with a successful track record in profit generation and product development. He also has previous experience of the Middle East, Europe and the Caribbean. Mr. Auriol's last appointment in this region was in 1982 in the UAE as executive assistant manager of the Forte Grand Dubai.

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Bustami, Wakileh win classic RACJ rallytour

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Faris Bustami and Rana Wakileh were declared the winners of the Zarusi Classic Rallytour Saturday, one day after the race completion.

The Bustami/Wakileh team collected the minimum penalty time in their Nissan 180K GT with 1.08 minutes to win the rally. The second place went to Rami Mahmoud and Yazan Habashneh and in their Hyundai Excel with 2.43 added to their time in total penalties. Ehab Shourafah and Omar Ghali took the third place in a Honda Accord, clocking 3.27

seconds.

With this win, Faris Bustami secured the third place in the National Rally Championship standings and improved his total to 97.5 points, which kept him alive in competition for the first place, currently occupied by Bashar Bustami with 140 points.

Mo'taz Masri and Mazen Qotob, who hold a record-low penalty time at a national rally tour of 44 seconds registered at this year's first rallytour, failed to break the record and fell in fifth place with 4.50 minutes.

The rallytour competition consisted of four main stages. According to the

rally's regulations, drivers are supposed to obey speed limits required in each stage. If a driver violates the speed limit, the amount of time exceeded will be counted as a penalty. The rally, which started Friday morning with 24 competitors, ended with 21 of finishing the race after three cars withdrew.

Each driver is accompanied by a co-pilot and one or two assistants. Asphalt public roads were the course of the competition and cruising speed ranged between 47 and 55 kilometres per hour with drivers crossing nearly 280 kilometres.



GOLF TOURNEY: Spaniard Severiano Ballesteros is watched by Colin Montgomerie in Woburn, Great Britain Saturday (AFP photo)

Al Hussein club maintain lead in Jordan soccer championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein club maintained the lead in the third consecutive week of the 1994 first division soccer league championship, organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation, followed by Kofrsoum and Al Wihdat clubs.

Al Hussein secured their top position lead after thrashing newcomers Shabab Al Hussein 4-0 during the last game of the third week.

Aref Hussein scored two of the four goals in the second half after Fayed Yousef opened scoring in the 15th minute of the first half from a penalty kick. Mazen Anbar added the fourth goal. On the other hand, Shabab Al Hussein's attackers caused no real threat to Al Hussein's goal except for two attempts which were foiled by Al Hussein's goalkeeper Rabea Al Daman. In Irbid, although Al Wihdat attackers threatened Al Karmel goal constantly they were able to score only two goals to keep their club in third

place, while Al Karmel maintained their last position in the league after losing for the third consecutive time.

Kufroum, maintained its second ranking by continuing its impressive and surprising performance. The club crushed Al Jeel club 4-1. Its star Yousef Obeidat scored a hat-trick and Al Jeel's sweeper Sizar scored a goal against his team after 15 minutes from start.

Meanwhile, Al Ahli and Al Ramtha maintained their fourth position with

four points each respectively, after both clubs drew in their games. Al Ahli played Al Qadisiyah for a 1-1 draw and Al Ramtha also drew with Al Jazireh 1-1.

Earlier in the week, Al Faisali crushed Al Arabi club 5-0. Jerjes Tadros of Al Faisali left his finger prints in the final two minutes of the match by scoring two goals.

The win raised Al Faisali's total to three points behind Al Ahli, while Al Arabi remained 11th in the standing.

Standings after 3rd week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	3	3	—	—	13	1	6
Kufroum	3	3	—	—	11	5	6
Wihdat	3	3	—	—	4	0	6
Ramtha	3	1	2	—	4	2	4
Ahli	3	1	2	—	3	2	4
Faisali	3	1	1	1	6	2	3
Jazireh	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Jeel	3	—	1	2	2	6	1
Qadisiyah	3	—	1	2	4	9	1
Shabab Al Hussein	3	—	1	2	3	9	1
Al-Arabi	3	—	—	3	1	7	—
Karmel	3	—	—	3	2	7	—

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE TO THE NEW FACULTIES OF EDUCATION AT THE THREE UNIVERSITIES IN JORDAN International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

- The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a Loan of U.S. \$73.0 million from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development- the World Bank- and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this Invitation.
- The Respective Purchasers namely:
 - University of Jordan in Amman
 - Yarmouk University in Irbid
 - Mu'tah University in Mu'tah
 hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the faculty of education of each one of these three Universities to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment and furniture to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the Faculties of Education about to be completed in the campus of each one of the respective Universities.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the Bidding Documents for each of the three Universities: (1) at the University of Jordan in Amman, (2) at the liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, (3) at the liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday from September 14, 1994 to Oct. 5, 1994.
- A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred offices on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be by a Bank draft or certified bank check in currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the respective University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent of the Jordan Dinar as follows:
 - For Delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per Lot.
 - For Delivery by local Mail to Local Bidders JD 25,000 per lot.
 - For Delivery to Overseas Bidders by Courier Service JD 25,000 per Lot plus JD 50 for all Lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot to each respective University. Contracts will be awarded for a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one Contract of each. Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1994. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied issued by The University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and Mu'tah University by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Jansher to face Englishman in squash World Open final

BARCELONA (AFP) — Defending champion Jansher Khan will take on England's Peter Marshall in a historic final of the squash World Open Sunday.

Jansher, who is favourite for a record-equalling sixth world title, needed less than an hour to subdue Australia's Rodney Eyles 15-7, 15-12, 15-13.

Marshall, the man with the unique double-handed grip, became Britain's first ever finalist in the men's world championship when he out-gunned Scot Peter Nicol 15-7, 13-15, 15-13, 15-3 in Saturday's other semifinal.

Jansher, who says he wants to win 10 World Opens — his legendary predecessor Jahan-gir Khan won six before retiring — was superb in all departments against Eyles.

On more than one occasion in the first game Eyles was left shaking his head as Jansher's inch-perfect drives to the back court simply killed the back wall and died, leaving him no chance.

But Eyles was also his own worst enemy, working himself gradually into a position for a winning drop shot — only to land the ball in the tin.

Those mistakes were far fewer in the second game, but at 11-11 Jansher simply moved up a gear in terms of his power and precision to romp home.

The third saw the closest tussle and at 13-13, it looked

as though the Australian might yet haul back into the match.

But a winning drop followed by a dazzling cross court backhand flick from the master, which sparked thunderous applause from the crowd, put the tie beyond doubt.

"It's important to put pressure on the other players," Jansher said, "and if you come through the semi-finals 3-0 it means you're mentally strong."

The world number one was understandably pleased with a performance which brought him his seventh World Open final in the last eight years.

"Today, I'm happy. I was playing a good length, near the wall. I was picking balls up and I was pleased with my fitness." And he had no preference over whether he met Marshall or Nicol on Sunday.

"They're all the same to me," he declared.

Eyles had no complaints about his defeat.

"It's disappointing," admitted the Australian. "But he is the number one in the world. I just wanted to go on and give it 100 per cent, which I did."

"He was too good on the day."

Marshall's win owed something to the tiredness which set into Nicol's game towards the end, although he worked the Scot around the court well with a mixture of the long and the short game.

Marshall has never beaten

Jansher in a major tournament, but the English number one will take some confidence from a 3-0 drubbing he gave the Pakistan star in the European Club Championship in Paris the previous weekend.

"These are the matches that are really important, these are the games I'm really in it for," said Marshall, who seem to relish the role of underdog.

"I'll be going in confident," he insisted. "Of course, he's a brilliant player, the best for a long time. But the pressure's on him — I'm just going to try and play my best squash."

He had already been well-prepared for Saturday's 90 minutes of tense, gruelling squash with Nicol.

"I knew it was going to be hard. Peter's been playing well and he seems to be getting better every tournament. But I was ready for it and I played my best squash of the tournament so far."

Nicol, widely seen as the sport's rising star having broken into the top 10 after only two years as a professional, was pummeled into making mistakes.

"I was quite tired when I went on and he worked me hard at the start," said the 21-year-old Scot.

"I was struggling physically because of the (previous) games — I only came off court at 10 last night. He knew that so he made it very hard for me. And he did well."

American baseball teams start laying off staff

NEW YORK (AP) — The implosion of Major League Baseball has begun, with some teams firing and laying off a large percentage of their business staff.

The San Diego Padres fired half their administrative staff Friday, getting rid of 25 employees.

Padres President Dick Freeman said that the team could no longer afford the staff because of the strike.

"Because of the strike, it's tough to justify," Freeman said. "There's not as much activity as there normally is. We felt these were moves we had to make, and there's no revenue coming in either."

Freeman said the accounting, public relations and community relations departments were among those included in the cuts. He said about 40 per cent of the team's administrative payroll was eliminated.

In Oakland, the Athletics laid off 17 of 71 front-office workers. Most of the layoffs are in marketing and ticket sales.

"We held the line as long as we could, but with the season clearly over we have exhausted all our options," Oakland General Manager Sandy Anderson said.

In New York, union head Donald Fehrsaid he will go on a seven-city tour to update players on the failed talks.

Friday marked the start of the strike's sixth week. Two days after cancelling the sea-

son, acting commissioner Bud Selig didn't know when talks would resume.

"As soon as possible should be the goal," he said from his office in Milwaukee.

Bargainers on both sides said they would take the weekend off. Talks aimed at starting the 1995 season on time aren't likely until October.

Eugene Orza, the union's no. 2 official, said the post-season could be saved with an agreement by Sept. 26, but Selig's announcement appears to have ended almost all talk between the sides.

Fehr and management lawyer Huck O'Connor spent Friday in Washington at a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayors of Major League cities said they are considering filing a lawsuit to end the strike, which causes an average economic loss of \$1.16 million per city for each cancelled home game.

Fehr said any lawsuit should focus on management, whom he says provoked the strike because of its threat to implement a salary cap.

"I think what they need to do is look at their lease provisions with the owners," Fehr said. "We think the strike was something of the owners' own making. That can't be consistent with promises to operate their businesses that they made in the leases."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada to host Special Olympics

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto and Collingwood, Ontario were chosen Friday as the hosts of the 1997 Special Olympics World Winter Games. The eight-day competition, featuring more than 2,500 athletes from some 80 countries, is scheduled to take place from Feb. 1-8, 1997. "Toronto has become one of the premier sports cities in the world," said Sargent Shriver, chairman and chief executive officer of Special Olympics International. Plans call for Toronto to host the floor hockey, figure skating and speed skating events. Nearby Collingwood will stage Alpine and Nordic skiing. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics offers training and competition in 23 sports, both summer and winter. Almost 1 million athletes from more than 130 countries take part in Special Olympics programmes.

Maradona becomes Boca Juniors assistant coach

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Soccer star Diego Maradona, his playing days behind him, said Friday he will begin a coaching career with his former Argentine League team Boca Juniors. The 33-year-old midfielder signed up as unpaid assistant to Boca coach Cesar Menotti beginning Saturday. "I want to learn the coach's trade with someone like Menotti," Maradona told reporters after a meeting with Menotti and Boca officials. Menotti coached Argentina to its first World Cup in 1978 and to the quarterfinals in 1982. Maradona has played in four World Cups, leading Argentina to the title in 1986 and the finals in 1990. In this year's World Cup he tested positive for the use of the banned stimulant ephedrine. FIFA world soccer's governing body, kicked him out of the tournament after the second match and later suspended him for 15 months. Maradona said two weeks ago that he was "almost certainly" retiring from professional play.

Klemetsen captures IBC title

AALBORG, Denmark (AP) — Ole Klemetsen of Norway stopped Rick "Rocky" Gannon in the second round Friday to capture the International Boxing Council's (IBC) vacant light heavyweight world title. Klemetsen constantly pummeled Gannon, who seemed slow and offered little resistance. The referee, seeing the American in difficulty, decided to stop the bout. "Tonight I feel I can beat anyone in the world," said Klemetsen, who now holds a record of 13 victories in 14 bouts, of which 10 were knockouts. His opponent has won 21 out of 24 fights with 16 knockouts. In a World Boxing Council's (WBC) international super middleweight title, Jaffar Ballogou of Togo beat Jerry Lee Williams of the United States. In the fifth round, Ballogou pushed Williams into the ropes and landed a powerful uppercut before the referee stopped the men. Ballogou has 26 wins, 23 of them knockouts, in 28 bouts. Williams has fought 14 times and lost twice. In another bout, Gert Bo Jacobsen of Denmark knocked American George Samms down four times in the first two minutes of the first round of their light welterweight bout. The referee gave Jacobsen the win.

Wenger fired as Monaco coach

MONACO (AP) — Arsene Wenger, who guided AS Monaco to the semifinals of the European Championships Cup last season, was fired Friday after coaching the French League club since 1987. The club was reeling in 17th place in the 20-team league after losing five of its first eight matches this season. The club president, Jean-Louis Campora, announced the widely expected dismissal in a communique. He named Jean Petit, an assistant coach, and former player Jean-Luc Ettori to work in tandem as Wenger's replacement. Under Wenger, a 45-year-old from France's Alsace-Lorraine region, Monaco won French League title in 1988 and the French Cup in 1991. It was the losing finalist in the 1992 Cup Winners Cup, and marched to the semifinals in the 1994 Champions Cup after replacing scandal-plagued Olympique Marseille as the French representative. Bayern Munich of the German League has expressed interest in hiring Wenger, who speaks German.

McRae leads Kankunen in Australian rally

PERTH, Australia — Scotland's Colin McRae forged a 16-second lead over world champion Juha Kankunen by the end of the second day of the Australian Rally Saturday. In a thrilling final stage of the day, McRae, in a Subaru Impreza, edged out his Finnish rival's Toyota Celica by just one second in a head-to-head battle for a total time of one hour 42 minutes 39 seconds with 13 of the 30 stages completed.

Bremen stre lead in Bund

NEW YORK (AP) — The implosion of Major League Baseball has begun, with some teams firing and laying off a large percentage of their business staff.

Another site for Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia Tech officials said Friday they are considering filing a lawsuit to end the strike, which causes an average economic loss of \$1.16 million per city for each cancelled home game.

GOREN BRID

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	3	3	—	—	13	1
Kufroum	3	3	—	—	11	5
Wihdat	3	3	—	—	4	0
Ramtha	3	1	2	—	4	2
Ahli	3	1	2	—	3	2
Faisali	3	1	1	1	6	2
Jazireh	3	1	1	1	2	2
Jeel	3	—	1	2	2	6
Qadisiyah	3	—	1	2	4	9
Shabab Al Hussein	3	—	1	2	3	9
Al-Arabi	3	—	—	3	1	7
Karmel	3	—	—	3	2	7

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Bremen strengthen lead in Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Werder Bremen increased their German first division lead Saturday with a somewhat fortunate 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

A close-range shot by Bremen striker Bernd Hobsch and a clumsy attempted save by Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Uwe Kamps in the 27th minute sealed victory for the home team and took them two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

But Moenchengladbach, inspired by some brilliant play by Stefan Effenberg, were unlucky not to equalise in the 72nd minute when Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck pulled off a magnificent save from midfielder Peter Wynnhoff.

Bayern Munich, one of four teams on seven points, two behind the leaders, were held to a 1-1 draw by Hamburg despite the visitors having goalkeeper Uli Stein sent off for deliberate handball outside the area 15 minutes into the second half.

Hamburg took the lead in the 16th minute through newcomer Andre Breitenreiter and Bayern were saved from defeat only by an 84th minute penalty converted by Lothar Matthaus.

Bayern, shaky since the start of the season under new Italian trainer Giovanni Trapattoni, were clearly missing midfielder Mehmet Scholl and French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, both injured.

Another site switch for Atlanta Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Coastal Georgia's Tybee Island was dropped Friday as the site for the 1996 Olympic beach volleyball competition, the latest of several Atlanta Games venues to be switched — at times under a cloud of controversy.

With Tybee Island officials charging that backroom politics took precedence over suitability, Olympic officials announced they were moving beach volleyball to Clayton County's Atlanta Beach, a private recreation facility about 15 miles (24 kilometres) south of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) made the switch after Ruben Acosta, executive director of the International Volleyball Federation, objected to the Tybee site.

While Acosta had endorsed the island near Savannah a year ago, "more thorough study of the venue by his technical staff" led him to conclude otherwise, said ACOG sports director Dave Maggard.

Among other things, Acosta had said the site was accessible only by a two-lane causeway. Acosta acknowledged that he also wanted to be closer to Atlanta, in part to attract greater media attention to the sport, which has only exhibition status at the '96 games.

The Tybee site, about 230 miles (370 kilometres) from Atlanta, was part of the proposal four years ago that won

Atlanta designation as host for the 1996 Summer Games. Friday's decision leaves the Savannah area with only one Olympic event — yachting.

The site switch follows others in the planning of the '96 games.

Two months ago, ACOG decided to move the indoor volleyball preliminaries to Athens from Cobb County after nearly a year of protests over that country's anti-gay resolution.

Late last year, rowing was moved from a lake in Rockdale County to Lake Lanier near Gainesville after the rowing federation urged the switch.

ACOG also dropped golf from the 1996 schedule after the proposed site, the Augusta National Golf Club, drew protests over its predominantly white male membership. The International Olympic Committee had also resisted adding a new sport to the programme.

And ACOG came close to scrapping plans for its 80,000-seat centerpiece stadium after neighbourhood residents and Fulton County commissioners opposed the plans.

Changes also have been made in the sites for badminton, equestrian events, gymnastics, shooting, tennis and weightlifting.

Organising officials and veterans of past games say venue changes are an inevitable part of staging something as large as the Olympic Games.

Two-goal blast gives United 2-0 victory over Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Two goals in as many minutes from Andrei Kanchelskis and Brian McClair gave champions Manchester United a 2-0 win over Liverpool in a Premier League match Saturday that ended the Merseysiders' unbeaten start to the season.

The victory moved United into third place behind leaders Newcastle, who face Arsenal Sunday, and Nottingham Forest, who drew 1-1 at Southampton.

Leeds, who also had a chance of moving up among the leaders, slipped back after losing 2-1 at Coventry, picking up a win bonus for the first time this season.

There was no change at the bottom of the table with Everton remaining in last place despite avoiding defeat

for the first time in four matches.

They drew 2-2 at home with Queen's Park Rangers but stay bottom with two points from six matches as Leicester beat Tottenham 3-1 to move on to four points after winning their first game.

The only bright point for Spurs was Jürgen Klinsmann's seventh goal of the season, which makes him the top scorer in the Premier League.

In other action, West Ham beat Aston Villa 1-0 with an 87th minute goal from Tony Cottee. Crystal Palace drew 0-0 with Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday drew 1-1 with Manchester City.

After an evenly-fought first half at Old Trafford, Liverpool carried the game to the

champions and put them under relentless pressure for almost 20 minutes.

But United weathered the storm, gradually re-asserted themselves and took the lead in the 71st minute when defender John Scales, Liverpool's recent three million pounds sterling (\$4.70 million) signing from Wimbledon made a mistake in backheading the ball in the direction of goalkeeper David James.

He failed to notice the lurking Kanchelskis who pounced to score. A minute later McClair, who had come on for injured Mark Hughes 15 minutes earlier put the finishing touch to a superb exchange of passes involving Kanchelskis and Eric Cantona to make it 2-0 and effectively end the contest.

Liverpool, who had only won 11 times in 61 previous visits to Old Trafford, were lucky not to lose by a bigger score as Ryan Giggs went close to adding a third in the closing minutes.

Liverpool's arch-rivals Everton avoided defeat but continued their worst start to the season for 36 years, staying bottom after being held to a 2-2 draw at Goodison Park by QPR.

England striker Les Ferdinand gave the visitors the lead after four minutes, but six minutes later Nigerian World Cup striker Daniel Amokachi, their £3.0 million (\$4.70 million) capture from Anderlecht, marked his home debut with the equalising goal.

Paul Rideout, who would almost certainly have lost his

place if Muller of Brazil had not pulled out of joining Everton on Friday, then put his side 2-1 up, but Ferdinand's second goal after 48 minutes ensured the points were shared.

Newly promoted Nottingham Forest would have gone top — at least until Newcastle played Sunday — if they had won at the Dell where they went ahead against Southampton after 43 minutes when Stan Collymore cracked home his third goal of the season.

But Southampton hit back with a Matthew le Tissier penalty, his second of the week, in the 55th minute after Forest's Norwegian World Cup debutant Alf-Inge Haaland pushed Ian-Dowie in the box.

Leicester, like Coventry

and West Ham, chalked up their first win of the season with an excellent performance against Spurs in a match which saw three goals in the last two minutes.

After Julian Joachim put Leicester ahead in the 45th minute there were no more goals until David Lowe scored in the 88th minute to make it 2-0.

Klinsmann gave Spurs some brief hope in the 89th minute, before Joachim's second in the final minute secured the points.

And there was joy late in the game at Upton Park where Cottee, returning to West Ham after six years at Everton, scored the winner on his homecoming against Aston Villa. It was only West Ham's second goal of the season.

Sanchez Vicario, Olazabal and Indurain help sports reign in Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Angel Gomez is a Madrid accountant who's never been a big flag-waver — but a remarkable string of Spanish sporting triumphs is making him strut like a bullfighter.

"I feel much prouder to be a Spaniard now that we are winning in all of these sports — before we were always finishing near the end," Gomez said.

"I don't care that much for (Aranza) Sanchez Vicario, but you have to give her due for winning again."

Sanchez Vicario's victory at the U.S. Open last weekend was her second major title of the year, one of many achievements that prompted the daily El Pais this week to dub 1994 as Spain's "golden year of sports."

Put simply, sports are reigning in Spain.

Spaniards are winning like never before in tennis, cycling, athletics and golf.

Sanchez Vicario's victory at flushing meadows gave Spain its fourth Grand Slam title this year. Sergi Bruguera and Sanchez Vicario swept the singles titles at the French Open, and Conchita Martinez won Wimbledon.

Miguel Indurain captured his fourth-straight Tour de

France in July, and earlier this month set the world one-hour record. This year's U.S. Masters Golf title went to Jose Maria Olazabal.

There's more. The Spanish national team reached the World Cup quarterfinals in July, losing to eventual runner-up Italy despite outplaying the highly touted Azzurri. Never regarded as a distance-running power, Spain swept the middle-distance through the marathon at the European athletics championships in August and claims the Olympic 1,500-metre champion in Femi Okech.

In addition, Spain's professional soccer and basketball leagues are arguably Europe's best. Ten of the top 30 scorers from the World Cup play in Spain — and the European Cup basketball champion is Spanish club Barcelona.

It's a remarkable change in a country prone to biting self-criticism — equally with a cigarette in one hand and a drink in the other.

"These victories have helped to reduce the sense of inferiority we have felt relative to other Europeans," said Gomez, a 26-year-old accountant. "We see now we're as good as anybody else

better than many, which is how it always should have been."

The watershed was the record 22 medals, including 13 gold, Spain won at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Spanish officials are now in a quandary as the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta approach.

"It's satisfying we're winning and Spanish sport is getting all this attention and respect, but it increases expectations all around, including what we'll do in Atlanta," said Rafael Cortes Elvira, the government's highest-ranking sports official.

No country after holding the games has matched its medal total four years later, attributable to the "home field" advantage which spurs athletes on and increases the money raised to support them.

"I think it's almost impossible that Spain will win more," said Cortes Elvira, president of the Consejo Superior de Deportes. "What we don't want to happen is to slip back to only the four we won in Seoul."

That's unlikely. In 1990, two years prior to Barcelona, Spanish athletes won 224 medals in world-level competitions in Olympic sports. They've already won 257 this

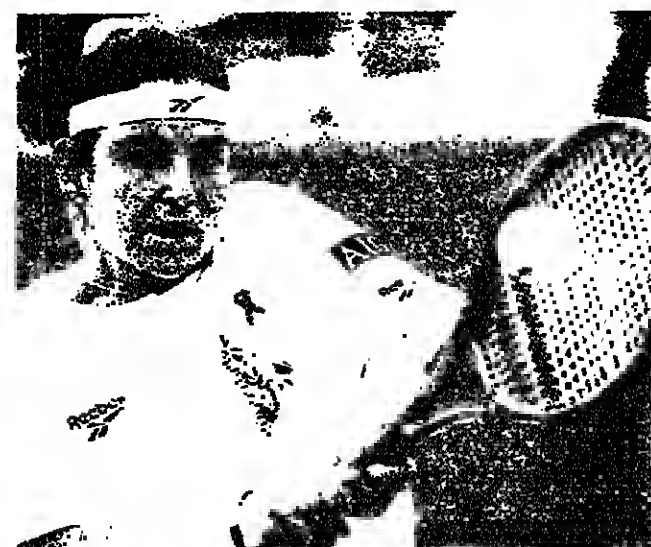
year and seem sure to pass 300.

"We were at a very low point eight years ago," Cortes Elvira added. "We knew whether we were and we knew we had to do something for '92."

Spain had been an embarrassing sporting lightweight alongside countries its size. During the 36-year Franco dictatorship — which ended with his death in 1975 — about the only bragging point was the Real Madrid soccer club, which Franco used for propaganda purposes to support his rule.

"What this new sports power reflects in Spain is a transformation of the society," said Cortes Elvira, who holds a doctorate in chemistry. "Sports is not isolated from society. The richest countries, the ones who are most socially developed, are the countries that show the best results in sports. Spain has simply moved up. Not many years ago we hardly had telephones, highways."

Young Spaniards are now noticeably taller, attributed to an improved diet over the last two decades. Several years ago standard bed lengths were increased about 10 centimetres (4 inches) to accommodate the growing



Aranza Sanchez Vicario

The resort of Jaca has the next Winter University Games and is a candidate for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

At the non-elite end, a decade ago there were four private sports facilities to every public one. Cortes Elvira said that figure has been reversed, with junior programmes thriving in many sports.

For instance, the French Open junior title went this year to Roberto Carretero, who trains with dozens of other promising young Spanish players at the Sant Cugat centre in Barcelona.

"A Bruguera, an Indurain doesn't come along often, but we have quality behind them. It's no vacuum," Cortes Elvira said.

Vintage victory at Irish St Leger

DUBLIN (AFP) — Vintage Crop turned in a superb display to win the Irish St. Leger at the Curragh Saturday — and booked a return trip to Australia to defend the Melbourne Cup.

Running third behind pacemaker Cliveden Gail and Bob's Return to the straight, the favourite and 1993 winner, picked up immediately for Michael Kinane to cruise past Bob's Return two furlongs out.

He maintained a relentless gallop to the line to become the first horse to complete the Irish St. Leger double. "We will give them some run for it in Melbourne again," enthused owner and race sponsor Michael Smurfit as he led in the gelding, who has now won 11 flat races and more than £800,000 in prize money.

Vintage Crop, a heavily-backed 7-4 favourite, and the eventual fifth, Cliveden Gail,

both go into quarantine Sunday, according to trainer Dermot Weld, who could scarcely conceal his delight.

"Vintage Crop really picked up for Michael when the race began in earnest. I wanted to ensure an end-to-end gallop and to find out whether Cliveden Gail was worth persevering with for Melbourne, that's why she went to the front from the start," added Weld.

Philip Robinson seemed to

be going the better on Bob's Return turning for home, easing past the pacemaker and striking the front approaching the two-furlong pole before being totally outpaced.

"I was very happy coming off the last bend, only he could not quicken. He just plugged on in that sticky ground and might not have been at home on it," said Robinson.

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GETTING THERE'S THE PROBLEM

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ A Q 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 3
♣ A Q 2

EAST
♠ J 9 8 7 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ J 8

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6 4
♥ A J 3
♦ 10 9 4 3
♣ A K 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT East 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠.
How does the expert mind work? Let's follow declarer's reasoning on this hand to see what we can learn.

Three no trump is a reasonable contract reached in quick time, although North should have investigated a heart contract. How would you go about making it?

Collecting nine tricks requires careful planning. Assuming the diamond finesse wins, you have two tricks in that suit, two spades and a

heart. You will need four club tricks if you are to get home. Since you have to surrender a trick in clubs, you have to hope that hearts are 4-3, likely from the lead, or that the suit is blocked, or that West has undervalued K Q.

When East produces the queen of hearts, do you hold up the ace? No, because that will not block the suit if East started with K Q bare.

After winning the ace of hearts, what is your plan for setting up the clubs? If you play ace, king and another club, you will establish the suit, but you will come to only eight tricks—you have stranded yourself without an entry back to hand to cash the ace of spades.

The solution is simple—lead a low club! First cashing a high club won't work: the defenders can return a club to cut your communications.

The defenders win and cash three hearts. Suppose West exits with a club. You win, cross to the king of spades and return to hand with the remaining high club. As long as clubs are 3-2, you can cash the ace of spades and rump home after taking a winning diamond finesse. Very pretty.

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Crisis deepens as Rabat links gunmen to Algeria

RABAT (Agencies) — A crisis between Maghreb neighbours Algeria and Morocco has deepened after charges by the Rabat government that subversive bent on destabilising the kingdom were trained by Algerian security services.

Diplomats said on Saturday the risk of a break in relations had grown after Morocco demanded visas from visitors of Algerian nationality or origin and Algeria retaliated by closing its 1,200-kilometre land border.

"Relations were broken off in 1976 for 13 years and it looks as though it could happen again soon," one diplomat said.

In a statement on Friday, the Interior Ministry named two wanted Moroccan with Algerian passports it said had received weapons training from the Algerian military in the oasis town of Tindouf near the Moroccan border.

It said Abdelilah Ziad, 36, and Mohamed Zineddine, 34, were behind five gunmen arrested in Morocco after a series of armed robberies and the discovery of a large cache of automatic weapons and ammunition in a mountain village.

Parliamentary investigations in Morocco and France had shown that the operations were "conceived and directed from abroad" by the men who "have always been manipulated by Algerian security services," the ministry added.

Members of the group being interrogated by an examining magistrate in the central city of Fez are suspected of attacking a luxury hotel in the southern city of Marrakesh where two Span-

ish tourists were shot dead on Aug. 24.

The two named Moroccans "underwent training on the use and manipulation of arms and explosives in southern Algeria," in Tindouf, along with elements of the Polisario "the ministry statement said.

Polisario Front guerrillas in the Western Sahara, a phosphate-rich former Spanish colony south of Morocco, began fighting for independence from Morocco in 1975. In 1988 both sides agreed to U.N.-supervised elections that have yet to take place.

After a hotel robbery in Marrakesh in August, Morocco began demanding visas from Algerians and began searching for Algerian "terrorists" within its borders. Algeria responded by closing its borders with Morocco.

The long-hostile neighbours had mended fences in recent years, notably due to Algeria's winding down support for Polisario rebels. But Algerian President Liamine Zerrouk infuriated Moroccans recently when he referred to the territory as "occupied."

The ministry added that Ziad and Eddine, convicted in absentia of gunrunning from Algeria in 1985, also received funds and "regular travel documents issued by Algerian authorities" to set up in France and other points in Europe.

French authorities have rounded up North Africans believed linked to Algeria's fundamentalist militant movement aiming to topple the military-backed government in Algiers.

Described officially as "dangerous terrorists," the

five gunmen arrested so far are of Algerian or Moroccan origin resident in France and international warrants have been issued for the arrest and extradition of others.

It was not clear from the ministry's statement whether the wanted men were still controlled by Algeria or only in the past. French investigators have said the gunmen received weapon training at secret sites in France.

Ziad and Eddine were sentenced to life imprisonment in their absence in September 1985 by a court in Casablanca where 14 others were sentenced to death after smuggling arms and explosives into Morocco on motorbike from Algeria.

Those who appeared in court said they trained in the Tindouf area by Polisario guerrillas.

They said they were members of the Islamic Youth Movement led by Abdul Karim Motil, a radical Moroccan Muslim fundamentalist living in exile since 1970, and were intent on launching a "jihad" or holy war in Morocco.

But the prosecution said they were planning an extremist campaign on behalf of the Polisario with the help of Algerian military security during a previous period of tension when Rabat broke off relations and Algeria closed the border for 13 years.

Algeria has not reacted so far to the latest Moroccan allegations and the official media did not report the Interior Ministry statement which was splashed across the front page of the official Moroccan daily Le Matin on Saturday under the headline "Implications of Algerian Security Services."



PREPARED TO FIGHT: Haitian militia train in Port-au-Prince on Saturday as last-minute efforts to avert a U.S.-led invasion continued (see page one) (AFP photo)

Khasbulatov stronghold under attack

TOLSTOY-YURT, Russia (AFP) — Some 500 troops loyal to the breakaway Chechnya republic's president attacked the stronghold of key opposition leader Ruslan Khasbulatov Saturday, before withdrawing after a six-hour battle, opposition groups said.

The offensive, the biggest to date by the forces of President Dzhokhar Dudayev, left an undetermined number of dead and wounded, said Beslan Gantemirov, commander-in-chief of the rebel pro-Khasbulatov forces.

Gunmen attack UNICEF convoy in Egypt; 5 killed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Suspected Islamic militants ambushed a police car escorting a U.N. station wagon on a southern Egypt highway Saturday and killed four police and a U.N. employee in a hail of bullets.

The Interior Ministry said a woman United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) employee and a photographer in the car were gravely wounded in the attack as the two-vehicle convoy drove south from Qus to Luxor, 560 kilometres south of Cairo.

Qena province security officials launched a search for the fleeing attackers, who were believed hiding in cane fields. Officials in Luxor, a major tourist destination that was a capital of ancient Egypt, said first reports indicated that three gunmen were involved and had gone into hiding in nearby sugar cane fields.

Captain Hesham Safay of the Interior Ministry said details were sketchy. "This is all we know about the attack until now, because all of those in the police car were killed," he told the Associated Press.

The UNICEF representative in Egypt, American Ba-

quer Namazi, and his deputy, Vanessa Tobin of Britain, were unhurt.

The dead were an Egyptian UNICEF worker travelling with them and four police escorts in the car in front.

The party was driving north from Luxor to open a clinic near Qena when gunmen opened fire at 8 a.m. near the village of Khuzam.

The police car was riddled with bullets and the UNICEF car was also hit.

Assistant project officer Hana Singer, an Egyptian woman, was injured, UNICEF spokeswoman Nagwa Farag said.

The dead police were Captain Khaled Mohammad Al Toukhi, his driver and two conscripts. The gunmen stole their weapons as they fled, security sources said.

Police said they suspected the militant Al Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which has been attacking police in southern Egypt for more than two years as part of a campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Ms. Farag said police provided an escort because the UNICEF team had also planned to visit the governor of Qena.

Ms. Singer has head injuries and was transferred to a hospital in Cairo.

The death toll on the police side was the highest in a single attack since March 20, when gunmen thought to be Muslim militants killed five policemen in the town of Sida.

On Aug. 27, a policeman and five militants were killed in a battle near the southern town of Sohag.

Militant attacks on police have noticeably increased in southern Egypt in the past 10 days after a relative lull that lasted several months.

Last Thursday Egyptian police shot dead two militants during a clash in fields near the town of Mallawi, some 230 kilometres south of Cairo.

On Wednesday militants ambushed a police car in the south, killing a policeman and wounding four. On Monday they attacked a patrol in Mallawi, killing two policemen and wounding four.

More than 400 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since the Gama'a and other groups began their campaign against the Egyptian government in 1992.

Shiite foes battle in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Heavy fighting and air strikes rocked southwest Kabul on Saturday as two Shiite Muslim factions battled in what had been a relatively peaceful sector of the shattered Afghan capital, witnesses said.

Hospital sources said at least 78 people had been killed and more than 500 wounded since clashes between the Harakat-e-Islami and Hezb-e-Wahdat groups flared on Wednesday.

Witnesses said bodies were lying in the streets and the local Karte Seh hospital was overflowing with casualties. Medical workers said they had been unable to reach the worst-hit area and feared the casualty toll could rise.

The fighting, the heaviest in the mainly Shiite quarter since May 1993, has drawn in the allies of the two factions, with the forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani on the side of Harakat-e-Islami and those of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and General Abdul Rashid Dostum backing Hezb-e-Wahdat.

Six people were killed and 96 wounded on Saturday as opposition forces bombarded Rabbani-held parts of Kabul.

Two presidential planes dropped fragmentation bombs and a cluster bomb on southwest Kabul, apparently aiming at the headquarters of Hezb-e-Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari.

Witnesses said the bombs missed the headquarters, but hit streets and houses nearby, causing casualties.

Further raids by Soviet-built Sukhoi jets were met by bursts of anti-aircraft fire. Civilians fled westwards from the area of Mr. Mazari's headquarters to an adjacent district as heavy exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued during the day.

Eight people were killed by one bomb which pulverised their house on Friday night. Four more were killed when a bomb hit a building near the former Soviet embassy. Overnight fighting raged around the former royal Darulaman Palace.

South Kabul is now cut off from the city centre due to the exchange of intense artillery fire, although hapless civilians behind Dehmadang Square were seen drawing water from communal wells even as machine-gun fire raked the surrounding

houses. A Harakat official in Kabul denied claims that Darulaman Palace had been captured by Wahdat, while the Defence Ministry admitted the palace had fallen but claimed it was later retaken by Harakat.

To the west of Kabul there was heavy shelling of the Wahdat-controlled strategic crossroads at Kote Sangi, which was seen under continuous artillery and rocket fire.

As yet there is no official confirmation that Mr. Rabbani's ally, Ittihad-e-Islami faction leader Rasul Sayyaf, has ordered his fighters into battle against their traditional enemies Wahdat.

The two Shiite factions had skirmished before, but until this week they had avoided open warfare, keeping the southwest relatively unscathed by the fighting between Mr. Rabbani and his foes which has engulfed much of the rest of Kabul since January.

More than 11,500 people have been killed in factional strife since Mujahideen guerrillas moved into Kabul after the collapse of a communist government in April 1992.

Hazardous waste found in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Dozens of barrels of hazardous industrial waste have been found in mountains northeast of Beirut in the past month, newspapers reported here Saturday.

Cesar Nasr, an advisor at the environment ministry, told AFP about 30 barrels were found Friday in Qayoun' Al Siman, containing between five and 35 litres of "powder and other materials used in the manufacture of shampoo."

"I believe this waste was collected from a number of factories and stored there. There was also on an attempt by whoever placed it there to burn it," he said.

The environment ministry

said Thursday that 25 other suspect barrels had been found in the same region and a month ago 19 barrels containing ethyl acetate were discovered.

Environment Minister Samir Mokbel said the ethyl acetate was in an advanced state of decomposition and could pose a threat, but he stressed it was not toxic.

Experts said the barrels found Thursday and Friday were packed with aniline, a coloring agent used to dye cloth, leather and rugs.

One of the experts, Pierre Malchev, told a local radio station that the material contained in the barrels was "dangerous".

"If someone swallows ani-

line it attacks the blood... and could cause paralysis. If it is inhaled it can trigger skin diseases."

Mr. Nasr said one of the barrels bore the inscription "Badische Anilin Soda Fabrik — BASF," which he identified as a factory based in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

All the barrels will be collected and transported to Beirut port, where 19 other containers said to hold industrial waste have been stored since they were discovered last month.

The government, in coordination with the private British firm Eurotech, is planning to ship all the waste to Britain to be burned in a special furnace.

COLUMN

'Poison umbrella' killer named

LONDON (AFP) — The authors of a new book on the "poison umbrella" murder of BBC journalist George Markov said they had given police the name of a former high-ranking Bulgarian diplomat they claim was the killer. After leaving Scotland Yard Friday, Kalin Todorov said: "We gave the officers the name of the man we believe is the killer and our reason for reaching that conclusion." Mr. Markov died 16 years ago when a poisonous pellet was injected into his leg using an umbrella as he waited for a bus on London's Waterloo Bridge. The file on the case still remains open, although at the time it was thought he was killed by the KGB for expressing dissent views on the BBC World Service. But the authors of "The Umbrella Murder", Bulgarians Vladimir Beresnev and Kalin Todorov, who have spent four years researching the murder and claim they have spoken to the former diplomat, now living in Sofia, they say is the killer, said Markov was not a dissident but an agent for the Bulgarian Secret Service. They said he was killed because he was then recruited by the British Secret Service and was working as a double agent. The case has been the centre of much speculation over the years. Earlier this year President Zhelev of Bulgaria accused the Russians of going back on a promise to open the KGB files on the case. Last November Major General Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB spy master, was arrested in London and questioned for 24 hours after being quoted as saying he organised the murder.

Singapore Muslims support 'living will' law

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore's Muslim clergy endorsed a government proposal to allow Singaporeans to decide whether they should be kept alive when terminally ill. "It is permissible in Islam for anyone of sound mind to make a will that he wishes not to accept or refuse life-sustaining treatment when he becomes terminally ill," the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) said. The Fatwa or ruling, adopted by the council's religious elders, removes doubts as to whether the government plan for so-called "living wills" will be accepted by Singapore's minority Muslim community. The living wills are standard forms that any adult can sign instructing his doctors not to keep him alive by artificial means when there is no hope of recovery. The government says it is against the use of expensive treatment to keep terminally ill patients alive and has instructed a 13-member panel to draw up guidelines for Singaporeans to die with dignity. "This (living will) is allowed because the terminally ill patient has resigned to his suffering and would want to die naturally, in peace believing that death is destined by God and that when time comes he will die," MUIS said in a statement. But the MUIS panel of religious elders suggested that three specialist doctors be asked to certify that a patient had no chance of recovery, instead of the two recommended by an ethics committee looking into the issue. The ethics committee also suggested that no one be forced to sign a living will and that those who change their minds about being kept alive through artificial means after signing a will be allowed to revoke it.

George Burns is recovering

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Comic actor George Burns, 98, was recovering well after surgery to drain fluid from his brain following a fall, a hospital spokesman said. Burns went through the surgery after suffering a fall in the bathroom of his Beverly Hills home. He was expected to move into a private room at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre. "He's doing better. They want to keep him another day in (intensive care) for more observation, just as a precaution," said hospital spokeswoman Paula Correia Thursday. "There's a good chance he's going to his own room Friday," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Iraqi authorities cut off ears of deserters'

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iraqi authorities have punished 780 army deserters by cutting their ears off, a Tehran-based Iraqi opposition group claimed Saturday. The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said the ears of 300 people in Basra, 250 in Nasiriyah and 230 in Al Amarah — all provinces in southeastern Iraq — had been cut off. Several of the prisoners had died from massive bleeding, it said in a statement. The measure had met with considerable resistance in several Iraqi cities, SCIRI said. Four doctors were arrested in Nasiriyah for refusing to inflict the punishment. Three of them were named as "Dr. Rabin Abdul Hadi, Dr. Yahya Rajab Khafaji and Dr. Esam." The fourth was described only as the head of Sogh Al Shukh Hospital in Nasiriyah. SCIRI said the order was issued on Aug. 27 and published in Iraqi newspapers.

'Anti-semitic crimes soar in Germany'

BONN (R) — A German news magazine said on Saturday that official figures showed anti-Semitic attacks had risen more than 100 per cent in Germany in the first six months of 1994 compared with the year before. Citing a report by the federal police agency BKA, Focus magazine said excerpts of an article to be published on Monday that there had been 701 such attacks compared with 343 in the same period of 1993. Officials at the agency were not available for comment. Focus said Bavaria saw more anti-semitic incidents than any other state. It added that 121 crimes aimed at Jews or Jewish targets were solved by investigators. Germany has seen a surge in neo-Nazi violence since unification in 1990, with rightists attacking foreigners, Jews and other targets of Nazi ideology such as the handicapped. Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated and a synagogue on the northern city of Luebeck fire-bombed. A pack of neo-Nazi skinheads rampaged through the Buchenwald camp memorial in July, shouting "siege hell" and threatening to burn a supervisor to death.

Mine kills 9 on bus in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Nine Turks were killed on Saturday when a passenger minibus hit a land mine in southeast Turkey where Kurdish rebels are fighting for a separate state, officials said. The minibus was on a journey to a nearby province from the southeastern town of Sirt when the mine exploded near the town, officials at the municipality of Diyarbakir said. Seven people were wounded in the incident. The Anatolian news agency, quoting the emergency governor's office in Diyarbakir, said 16 guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) and one village guard were killed in clashes in the rural areas of Hakkari, Diyarbakir, Bingol and Bitlis towns on Saturday. Two PKK rebels were killed near Kars town on Friday. The PKK's 10-year-old fight for a separate state in Turkey's southeast has claimed more than 12,800 lives.

Lebanese detainees questioned in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A federal judge investigating the bombing of a Jewish community centre that killed 95 people said Friday he would continue questioning two Lebanese detainees. Judge Juan Jose Galeano questioned detainees Jassam Dyouh on Friday and said he was to interrogate Ali Haudi Hussein on Saturday. Hussein's name is the same as an alias used by a Lebanese wanted by the international police agency Interpol. Mr. Galeano told reporters. Hussein, Dyouh and three other Lebanese, including a 16-year-old boy, were detained Sept. 10 in Misiones province near Argentina's northern border with Brazil. The other three were released Wednesday due to a lack of evidence linking them to the July 18 bombing, which also injured more than 200. Mr. Galeano last month ordered the capture of four current and former Iranian officials for questioning in connection with the bombing. He also said three current employees of the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires should be questioned. However, the supreme court, which handles all cases involving foreign diplomats, ruled there was not enough proof to force the Iranians to submit to interrogation.

Simpson may not testify at trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of former football star O.J. Simpson's lawyers said Friday it was too early to decide whether Mr. Simpson will testify in his own defense at his

'Dane's murder not linked to Cypriot case'

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police questioning three British soldiers denied press reports on Saturday linking the murder of a Danish blonde to that of a local girl. The decomposed, battered and naked body of 23-year-old Louise Jensen from Hirtshals, Denmark, was found in a shallow grave in the coastal town of Paragouli on Thursday. The tour guide had been missing since Tuesday. Salesgirl Christyalla Ioannou, 18, from the port town of Limassol, was kidnapped, sexually assaulted and strangled with her own belt. Her body was found in a remote region in Limassol on Feb. 13 after she went missing for a couple of days. "There is absolutely no connection," police said.

Schoolboy wounded in Tehran blast

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb concealed under a parked car exploded early Saturday in downtown Tehran, lightly wounding a schoolboy, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. IRNA said the boy was walking to school at 7:40 a.m. (0310 GMT) when the blast occurred in Kusb street, near Ferdowsi Square. It did not give the name or age of the victim, but said his injuries were not serious. The car, parked in front of a three-storey house, was destroyed and windows of nearby buildings were shattered, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus. It said an investigation was under way to uncover the culprits and their motives. Violence has intermittently rocked Iran in recent months amid the nation's increasing economic and social hardships. The most serious attack this year was an explosion June 20 at a mausoleum in Mashhad, in northeast Iran, which killed 26 people. Iran has accused the Iraq-based opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq of trying to destabilise the country. It claims Iranian security forces have arrested several Mujahadeen operatives who confessed that they had been sent from Iraq to carry out sabotage attacks across the country. Mujahadeen Khalq has rejected the accusations, claiming growing public discontent triggered by economic problems and the oppressive policies of the clergy-dominated regime was behind the violence.

'Open society' advocate Popper dead at 92

LONDON (AFP) — Karl Popper, one of the century's leading philosophers, died Saturday aged 92 at Croydon, south of London, after a long illness, members of his entourage said. Popper's best-known book, "The Open Society and Its Enemies," published just after World War II, became widely influential with its critique of totalitarian societies and defence of the free market as an instrument for democracy. His writings on epistemology, the study of the limits of human knowledge, strongly influenced modern conservative thinking and attracted the admiration of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Viewed as a reactionary during the free-wheeling 1960s, Popper returned to intellectual favour in the wheel-dealing 1980s. In an early reaction from his native Vienna, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky hailed Popper as "one of the greatest philosophers and thinkers of our time." Resident in Britain since 1945, Popper became associated with anti-Marxist philosophical positions, rejecting the notion that the future is predetermined by history, asserting rather that it is subject to innumerable possibilities. Other influential works in which he developed his views were "The Poverty of Historicism" and "The Logic of Scientific Discovery."

